

5. THE EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE AND REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS



5.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC) is established by the Council to perform the following functions:-

- (a) to determine, upon the recommendation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), the specialties under which names of registered medical practitioners may be included in the Specialist Register;
- (b) to recommend to the Council, on the recommendation of the HKAM, the qualification, experience and any other attributes that qualify a registered medical practitioner to have his name included in the Specialist Register under a particular specialty;
- (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures, documentations and fees payable for including the name of a registered medical practitioner in the Specialist Register;
- (d) to recommend and review the standard and structure of undergraduate medical education and medical training required for a person to become a registered medical practitioner; and
- (e) to recommend to the Council whether the name of a registered medical practitioner should be included in or removed from the Specialist Register.

5.2 The membership of the EAC (as at 31 December 2006) was as follows:-

Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, JP (Chairman)
Dr CHENG Chi-man (from 12 February 2006 onwards)
Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel
Professor COCKRAM, Clive Stewart
Professor Tony GIN
Dr HUNG Chi-tim
Dr IP Pui-seung, Shirley (from 8 February 2006 onwards)
Dr LAM Lo-kuen, Cindy
Professor LAM Siu-ling, Karen
Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David
Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, CBE, JP
Professor LUK Dip-kei, Keith
Dr SO Pik-han, Kathleen, JP
Dr YU Shun-yin (from 12 February 2006 onwards)

5.3 The voluntary 'CME Programme for Practising Doctors who are not taking CME Programme for Specialists' (the Programme) was implemented with effect from 1 October 2001. Under the Programme, participating doctors who have accumulated 30 or more CME points in a year within the 3-year CME cycle and whose names are not included in the Specialist Register will be awarded a CME Certificate to certify that they have achieved a satisfactory level of CME activity during that particular period. The CME certificate can be displayed inside the doctor's office. Since the implementation of the Programme, the Council has, on the recommendation of the EAC, issued some 6,200 CME Certificates to the participating doctors.

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5.4 Under the Programme, the Council had decided that medical practitioners would be qualified to quote the title 'CME-Certified' on their visiting cards if they satisfy the requirements determined by the Council. On the recommendation of the EAC, the Council has approved the use of the title by 1,596 medical practitioners.

5.5 The EAC is also responsible for scrutinizing qualifications, upon application, and recommending to the Council whether the qualifications may be quoted on signboards, letterheads and visiting cards, etc. In 2006, the EAC considered 23 qualifications. Of these 23 qualifications, 12 were regarded by the EAC as having met the prevailing vetting criteria and were included in the List of Quotable Qualifications with the endorsement of the Council.

5.6 As at 31 December 2006, there were 11,739 medical practitioners with full registration. This figure included those resident in Hong Kong and those on the non-resident list. **Table 9** shows that there has been an increase in the number of registered medical practitioners from 10,731 in 2002 to 11,739 in 2006 (9.4%). In addition to the medical practitioners with full registration, there were 185 medical practitioners with limited registration among whom 68 were permitted to work in the exempted clinics.

5.7 Keeping the entries in the General Register and the Specialist Register up-to-date has been a major task for the Council Secretariat. Hundreds of transactions are carried out weekly, including changes of registered address or personal particulars, removal from and restoration to the registers, transfer to and from the resident and the non-resident lists respectively, issue of Certificates of Good Standing and Certificates Verifying Registration, etc. In addition, as a public service, the Council Secretariat dealt with over 47,300 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public in 2006.

5.8 **Table 10** lists in detail the registration figures in respect of various parts of the General Register, including "provisional" and "limited" registration as well as cases of restoration to the Register from 1996 to 2006. As the figures show, there was a drop in the number of applications for registration in Part I of the General Register since 1997 due to the amendment of the Medical Registration Ordinance in respect of the qualification for registration. Non-local medical graduates, except those recognised under the transitional arrangement, are required to sit the Licensing Examination.

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5.9 A medical practitioner whose name has been removed from the General Register, whether as a consequence of disciplinary proceedings or otherwise, may apply to the Council for restoration of his name to the Register. The Council may hold an inquiry to decide whether to grant or refuse the application. **Table 10** shows that in 2006, there were 20 such applications and all were approved.

5.10 In addition, every year the Council Secretariat has to conduct a large-scale exercise of renewal of practising and retention certificates for all registered medical practitioners. With the increase in the number of registered medical practitioners, the number of annual practising and retention certificates issued has also risen from 10,400 in 2002 to 11,400 in 2006, representing an increase of 10%.

5.11 The Specialist Register was established in 1998 to provide for registration of specialist doctors qualified in various specialties. There were 4,035 doctors registered under 51 specialties as at 31 December 2006. The number of specialist doctors registered under each specialty is set out in **Table 11**.