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## Registration of Medical Practitioners

- 8.1 As at 31 December 2011, there were 12,818 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 had been an increase in the number of registered medical practitioners from 11,961 in 2007 to 12,818 in 2011 (7.2%). In addition to the medical practitioners with full registration, there were 162 medical practitioners with limited registration among whom 60 were permitted to work in the exempted clinics.
- 8.2 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 48,300 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public in 2011.
- 8.3 **Table 10** lists in detail the registration figures in respect of various parts of the General Register, including “full”, “provisional”, “limited” and “temporary” registration as well as cases of restoration to the Register from 2002 to 2011. 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.
- 8.4 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 2011, there were 26 such applications and all were approved.

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- 8.5 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 had also risen from 11,600 in 2007 to 12,424 in 2011, representing an increase of 7.1%.
- 8.6 As at 31 December 2011, there were 5,289 medical practitioners registered on the Specialist Register under 52 specialties. The number of medical practitioners registered under each specialty is set out in **Table 11**.