Dear Dentists,

**Letter to Registered Dentists**

The purpose of this letter is to update you on a few issues pertaining to the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.

**Name of Practice**

The salient points of the guidelines on the name of practice are stipulated in the following sections of the Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong ("the Code") –

Section 1.8.2

"Unless otherwise permitted by the Council, a dental practitioner, other than a dental practitioner practising in partnership, may only practise under his own name or under the name of a dental company. Dental practitioners practising in partnership may only practise under the name of one or more of the existing partners of that practice unless otherwise permitted by the Council. Reference should be made to section 1.9 for group practices. This section does not apply to a dental practitioner who is acting as a locum at the practice."

Section 1.9.2

"Prior approval of the Council must be sought if any dental practitioner wishes to practise in any name other than his own name, or the name of a dental company, or the name of one or more of the existing partners of that practice."
The Dental Council of Hong Kong ("the Council") has received from time to time complaints regarding the name of practice contrary to the Code. After consideration, the Council decided at its Policy Meeting held on 16 April 2020 that if it comes to the notice of the Council that a dentist does not comply with the relevant guidelines relating to the name of practice, the Council would require the dentist concerned to make necessary rectification. Should the dentist fail to produce evidence of rectification/compliance with the Code, the matter will be processed as a complaint or information of unprofessional conduct which may result in disciplinary action being taken against the dentist concerned.

**Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") Programme for Practising Dentists**

The current CPD cycle runs from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022. In view of the changing environment arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council revised in July, August 2020 and June 2021 the Guidelines on the CPD Programme for Practising Dentists for the 2020-2022 CPD Cycle ("the Guidelines") on various areas pertaining to (i) organisation of online CPD activities; (ii) partnership in organising CPD activities; (iii) core CPD activities; (iv) online activities delivered on demand; (v) overseas CPD activities; (vi) participation in CPD activities by enrollees; (vii) role of CPD Programme Administrators; and (ix) accreditation of online CPD activities.

The updated Guidelines have already been posted on the website of the Council. The Council has also drawn the attention of the related organisations to the revisions. The CPD Programme Administrators have particularly been requested to inform the dentists enrolled with them of the relevant revisions. The changes which are directly relevant to individual enrolled dentist are highlighted below for ease of reference –

(a) Revising one of the 12 categories of core CPD activities “Dental Public Health Issue of Local Relevance” to “Dental and Medical Public Health Issue of Local Relevance” (paragraph 6(ix) of the Guidelines);

(b) Increasing the maximum CPD points that can be awarded for participation in online CPD activities by each enrollee in the 2020-2022 CPD Cycle from 15 to 30. A maximum of 5 points may be awarded for each online activity for each enrollee. These limits should not apply to active participation. No CPD points would be awarded for participation in the online CPD activities beyond the said maximum limits in the 2020-2022 CPD cycle (paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Guidelines);

(c) For receptive participation with physical attendance in dual mode CPD activities (i.e. CPD activities delivered both online and requiring physical attendance at the same time), CPD points will be allocated in the same manner as that for CPD activities requiring physical attendance only (paragraph 13 of the Guidelines); and

(d) A maximum of 5 points may be awarded for each online pre-approved overseas CPD activity with effect from 8 June 2021 (paragraph 14 of the Guidelines).

You may refer to the updated Guidelines at the Council’s website –


Ordinances and Guidelines

A courteous reminder is extended to all members in the dental profession that they should fully acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Dentists Registration Ordinance ("DRO") and the Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations governing their dental practice, as well as other relevant ordinances and their subsidiary legislations such as the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, the Radiation Ordinance and the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance.

Updates to Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities

Dentists are reminded that there are updates to regulation of private healthcare facilities. Please refer to the Appendix for the letter dated 13 December 2021 from the Director of Health for the updates. You may also refer to the website of the Office for Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities at the following links for the letter and its annex –

The Letter -

Annex to the Letter -

Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong

Dentists are also advised to read through and familiarize themselves with the Code, thereby avoiding the danger of inadvertently transgressing the accepted code of professional ethical behaviour which may lead to disciplinary action by the Council. It must be emphasized that the Code is NOT a complete code of professional ethics, nor can it specify all conduct which may lead to disciplinary action.

Improper Behaviour

Dentists are reminded to take special care and prudence in circumstances which could leave them open to allegation of improper behavior/conduct that may amount to sexual harassment in delivering dental services to patients especially in the absence of a chaperone or a dental assistant.

Under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, it is unlawful for a person to sexually harass another person in the course of providing goods, facilities or services. According to the Equal Opportunities Commission ("EOC"), sexual harassment is any unwelcome or uninvited sexual behaviour that is generally regarded as offensive, humiliating or intimidating. There are two forms of sexual harassment –

1. Any unwelcome sexual behaviour or conduct which is offensive, humiliating or intimidating; or
2. An environment where there are actions, languages or pictures that are of a sexual nature that makes it hard for the victim. This is called “a sexually hostile or intimidating environment”.
The website of the Anti-sexual harassment Recourse Platform of the EOC is appended below for relevant information –


**Infection Control**

Section 17 of the DRO stipulates that no registered dentist shall practise dentistry in premises or under conditions which are unsuitable for such practice. All dentists should familiarise themselves with the relevant guidelines on infection control in their clinic setting. The Hong Kong Dental Association has recently published a document on “Dry Heat Sterilization and Its Limitations in Dental Practices” and dentists may refer to the following link for the said document –


**Permitted Scope of Dental Hygienists**

The Council has received enquiries from time to time regarding the scope of work of an enrolled dental hygienist. In the circumstances, opportunity is taken to remind registered dentists about the permitted scope of work of a dental hygienist.

The scope of work of enrolled dental hygienists is prescribed in regulation 6 of the Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations (“Regulations”). An enrolled dental hygienist may undertake the following dental work –

(a) the cleaning and polishing of teeth;
(b) the scaling of teeth (i.e. removal of tartar deposits, accretions and stains from those parts of the surface of the teeth which are exposed or which are directly beneath the free margins of the gums, including the application of medicaments thereto);
(c) the application to the teeth of solutions of sodium or stannous fluoride or such other similar prophylactic solutions as the Council may from time to time determine;
(d) the exposure of x-ray films intra-orally or extra-orally for the investigation of lesions or suspected lesions of the mouth, jaws, teeth and associated structures; and
(e) the giving of advice on matters relating to dental hygiene.

It is unlawful for dental hygienists to undertake any dental work other than those mentioned above. Besides, a dental hygienist shall not undertake any form of dental work unless –

(a) he is enrolled with the Council and his name is entered on the roll of dental hygienists maintained by the Registrar of Dentists;
(b) he is employed by a registered dentist or by any organization or establishment that has employed at least one registered dentist;
(c) any patient upon whom he undertakes dental work has first been examined by a registered dentist who has then prescribed the treatment to be carried out by the
dental hygienist;
(d) such dental work is carried out –
   (i) in accordance with the directions of a registered dentist who is available
       in the premises at all times when such dental work is carried out; and
   (ii) in such premises and under such conditions as are suitable for such work.

Change/Addition of Practising Address(es)

Under section 10 of the DRO, the registered address appearing upon a certificate of
registration shall be the principal address at which the registered dentist carries on his practice.
A registered dentist is required to report to the Registrar every address at which he carries on
the practice of dentistry for gain.  A registered dentist is required to report any change of his
registered address or the change of any other address at which he carries on the practice of
dentistry for gain within 2 months of any such change.  The report should be made to –

Central Registration Office (Dental)
17/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen’s Road East
Wanchai, Hong Kong
(Tel: 2961 8655    Fax: 2891 7946)

Yours faithfully,

( Ms Maria CHOW )
Secretary
The Dental Council of Hong Kong

cc.  Chairman and Members, The Dental Council of Hong Kong
     Legal Adviser, The Dental Council of Hong Kong
     President, College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
     Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, the University of Hong Kong
     President, Hong Kong Dental Association
     Chairman, Government Doctors’ Association
13 December 2021

Dear Doctor / Dentist,

**Updates to Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities**

We write to inform you of the following updates on the regulation of private healthcare facilities -

(1) The penalty provision pertaining to the operation of a day procedure centre (DPC) without a licence under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) (the Ordinance) will come into effect **on 30 June 2022**, on or after which operation of a DPC without a licence will be an offence.

(2) Major plexus block under anaesthetic procedure of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance is amended as in the Annex to clarify that major plexus block includes cervical plexus block. The amendment will come into effect on **1 January 2022**. Cervical plexus block, as a scheduled medical procedure, is required to be performed in a hospital or DPC.

The Ordinance, passed in November 2018, provides a new regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities. Under the Ordinance, operators of premises where registered medical practitioners and/or registered dentists practise, including (1) hospitals; (2) DPCs; and (3) clinics, are required to obtain either a licence or a letter of exemption from the Department of Health. The Ordinance is being implemented in phases. Applications for hospital and DPC licences have been accepted since July 2019 and January 2020 respectively. All hospital licences and the first batch of DPC licences have already come into effect from 1 January 2021. Commencement of clinic licence applications and requests for letters of exemption will be announced in due course.

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DPCs are ambulatory facilities that are used, or intended to be used, for carrying out scheduled medical procedures (as stipulated in Column 2 of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance) on patients without lodging. All DPCs are required to operate with a licence (either a provisional or full licence) and there is no exemption arrangement for DPCs under the Ordinance. With the commencement of the penalty provision pertaining to the operation of a DPC without a licence on 30 June 2022, any person operating a DPC without a licence will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of HK$100,000 and to imprisonment for three years.

**Operators of DPCs who have yet to apply for a licence should do so as soon as practicable.** Operators are required to comply with all the requirements under the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres in order to obtain a licence. You are advised to apply for a licence through our electronic platform (apps.orphf.gov.hk/Submission/). Details of the regulatory regime including the list of scheduled medical procedures, licence application procedures and relevant documents can be accessed via the QR code below.

For enquiries, please contact us at 3107 8451 or visit our website at www.orphf.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr Addi CHAN)
for Director of Health

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Regulatory regime and licence application
https://www.orphf.gov.hk/s/1jQxm

我們要建設一個健康的香港，並立志成為國際知名的公共衛生監管機構
We build a healthy Hong Kong and aspire to be an internationally renowned public health authority
Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 3) Notice 2021

L.N. 158 of 2021

Section 1

L.N. 158 of 2021

Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 3) Notice 2021

(Made by the Secretary for Food and Health under section 123 of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633))

1. Commencement
This Notice comes into operation on 1 January 2022.

2. Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance amended
The Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) is amended as set out in section 3.

3. Schedule 3 amended (classes of specialized services)
Schedule 3, item 7, column 2, paragraph (c), before “brachial”—

Add
“cervical,”.

Professor Sophia CHAN Siu-chee
Secretary for Food and Health

9 August 2021
Explanatory Note

Schedule 3 to the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) sets out different classes of specialized services and the medical procedures corresponding to those classes for determining whether a medical procedure is a scheduled medical procedure for the purposes of a day procedure centre.

2. This Notice amends the Schedule to clarify that the medical procedure of “major plexus block” (corresponding to the class of specialized service of “anaesthetic procedure” as specified in item 7 of the Schedule) includes cervical plexus block.