

Provisions of Medical Council (Election and Appointment of Lay Members) Regulation come into effect

The Government today (June 29) gazetted the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Commencement) Notice and the Medical Council (Election and Appointment of Lay Members) Regulation Commencement Notice.

Under the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 which became effective on April 6, the number of lay members of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) increases from four to eight.

Among them, three of the four additional lay members are to be elected to the MCHK by patient organisations. Moreover, patient organisations shall nominate two to 10 assessors for the MCHK's appointment to take part in the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry of the MCHK.

"There is an imminent need to commence the relevant provisions in the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 and the Medical Council (Election and Appointment of Lay Members) Regulation, so that the patient organisations can start election and nomination procedures as soon as possible," a Government spokesman said.

The relevant provisions of the Ordinance and the Regulation came into effect today when the commencement notices were gazetted, the spokesman added.

The Government introduced the Medical Council (Election and Appointment of Lay Members) Regulation into the Legislative Council in May this year to provide for the election procedures of the three lay members who represent patients' interests.

Upon the commencement of the Regulation, the MCHK Secretariat will invite patient organisations to apply for registration as eligible electors for the election. After the compilation of the electoral register, the MCHK Secretariat will proceed with the procedures on candidate nomination and polling.

The election is expected to be completed by the end of 2018 and the target is for the three lay members to assume office in early 2019.