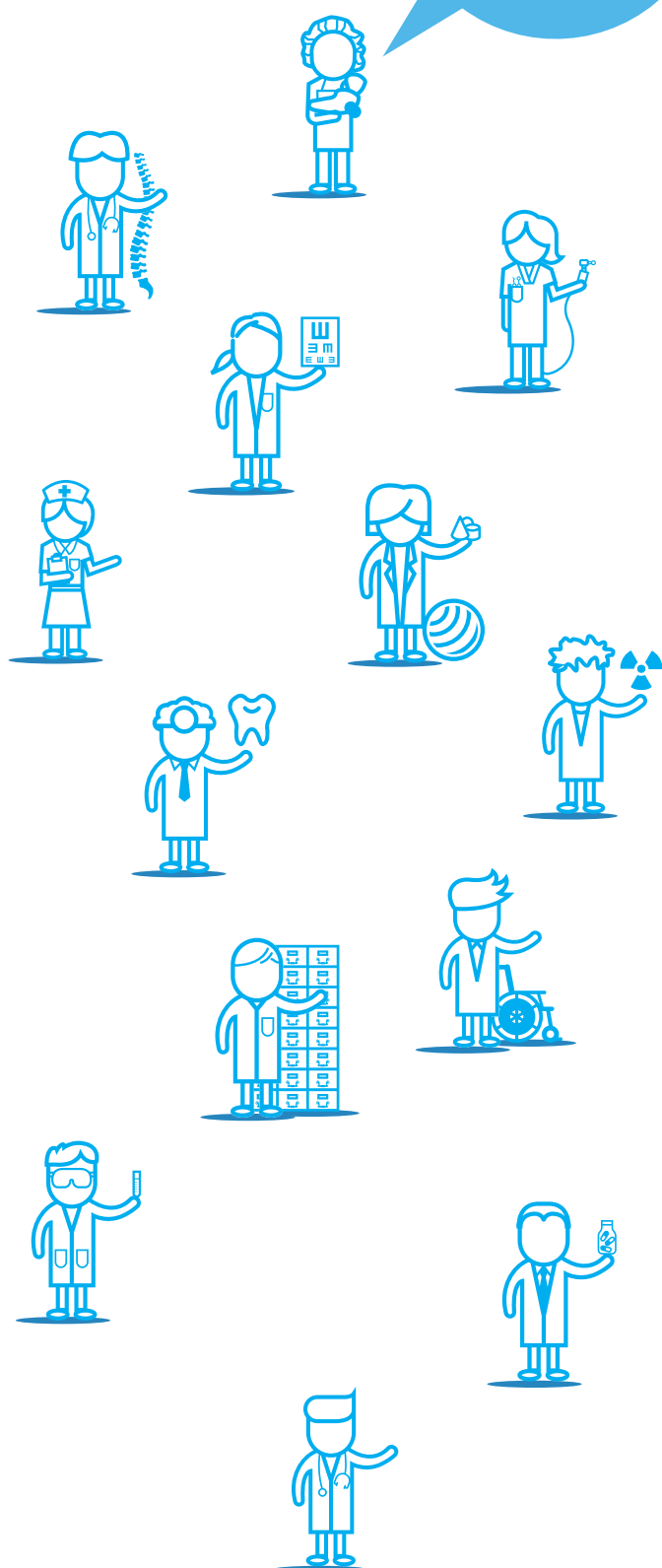


1.1



1.1.1 Over the past decades, Hong Kong has developed a healthcare system with high efficiency and good quality, providing accessible and affordable healthcare services to the population. Thanks to the diligence, dedication and professionalism of our healthcare professionals, we have made notable achievements on public health. The infant mortality rate has dropped from 19.6 per 1 000 registered live births in 1970 to 1.5 per 1 000 registered live births in 2015. The life expectancy at birth has increased from 67.8 years for male and 75.3 years for female in 1971 to 81.4 years and 87.3 years respectively in 2015. We are now ranked among the best in the world in terms of many health indicators including life expectancy and infant mortality.

1.1.2 Hong Kong's healthcare system is underpinned by a robust public sector and a burgeoning private sector which operate along a dual track. The public healthcare system is financed by the Government and its healthcare services are mainly delivered through the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA). DH performs public health functions including health promotion, disease prevention as well as regulation of drugs, healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities. HA provides a wide range of highly subsidised curative and rehabilitative services through its 42 hospitals, 47 specialist outpatient clinics, 73 general out-patient clinics, 18 Chinese Medicine outpatient clinics and community outreach teams.

CHAPTER 1

Hong Kong Healthcare System and Healthcare Professionals



1.1.3 It is the Government's established policy that no one in Hong Kong should be denied medical care due to lack of means. The public system serves as a safety net for Hong Kong residents, by making public healthcare services available to all at affordable prices. Regardless of their ability to pay, patients who use public services only need to pay a small fraction of the actual cost of service provision. Those receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance or are granted full medical fee waiver are exempted from payment of medical fees and charges.

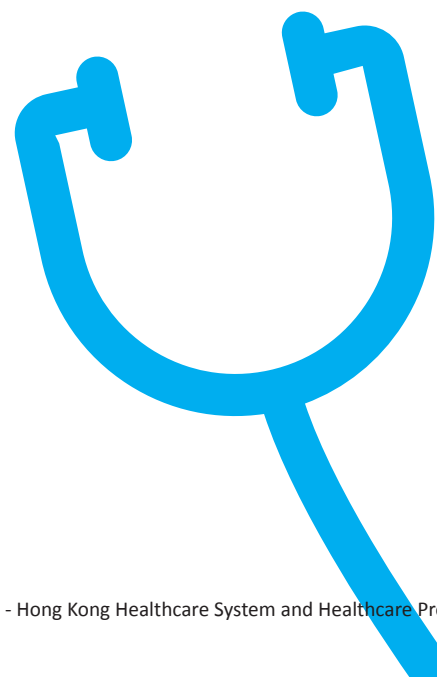
1.1.4 The public system is complemented by a private sector which offers those who can afford it and are willing to pay for access to more flexible services at their own expense. The private sector has a sizable presence in the delivery of healthcare services, through a broad range of service providers including 11 private hospitals and thousands of clinics, nursing homes, community pharmacies, medical laboratories, diagnostic imaging centres and optical shops. It engages a large number of healthcare professionals.

1.1.5 The private sector is the chief provider of ambulatory care, accounting for about 70% of all medical visits and dental visits, and the majority of these encounters occur in primary care settings. For primary care, general practitioners in private practice is the most common type of medical practitioners consulted in Hong Kong, followed by doctors in outpatient

clinics under DH or HA, and Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs) in private practice¹.

1.1.6 The public sector, meanwhile, dominates secondary and tertiary care. Hong Kong has 42 public hospitals and 11 private hospitals, providing some 27 800 and 4 200 beds respectively. The public hospitals under HA manage approximately 80% of all hospital admissions and their share of total bed-days almost reaches 90%. Virtually all critical emergencies are tackled by the accident and emergency departments of the public hospitals.

¹ Census and Statistics Department (2015). Thematic Household Survey Report No. 58.



1.2

Health Expenditure

1.2.1 The Government has invested heavily on Hong Kong's quality healthcare system. The total health expenditure increased from 3.6% to 5.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the period from 1989-90 to 2013-14. Over the same period, public share in total health spending rose from 39% to 49%.

1.2.2 The Government's commitment to healthcare is manifested by the continuing and increasing investment on healthcare development throughout the years. The recurrent government expenditure on health reached \$56 billion in 2015-16, accounting for 17% of the total recurrent government expenditure. This represents an increase of 54% over 2010-11. As a result of the continued investment, people in Hong Kong are able to enjoy public healthcare services at highly subsidised rates. Nearly 93% of the costs involved in delivering public healthcare services are financed by public funding. The largest proportion of our Government healthcare expenditure goes to human resources. Staff cost represents about 70% of HA's total recurrent expenditure.

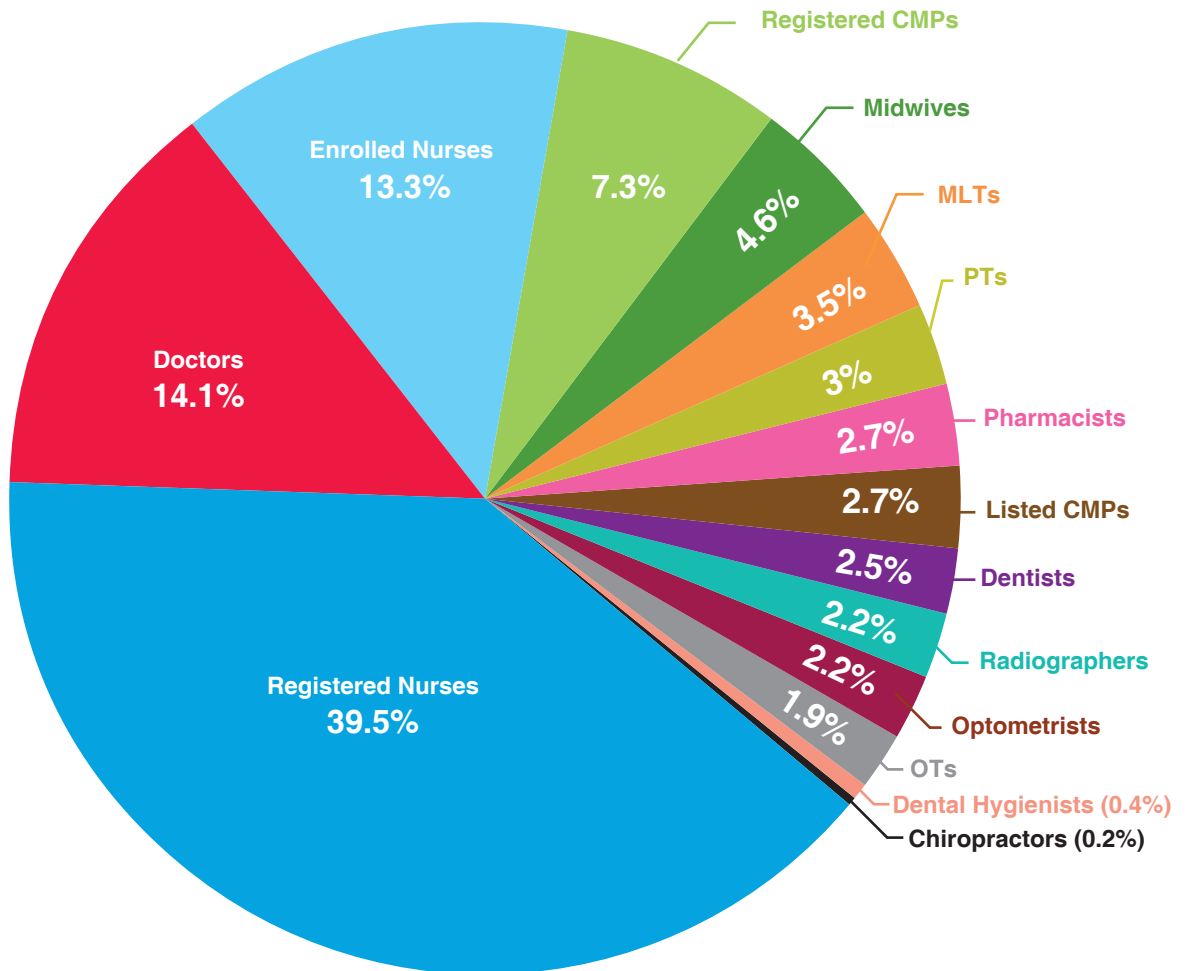
1.3

Health Workforce

1.3.1 Our world-class healthcare system is supported by a highly professional league of healthcare workers. Growing from about 83 000 in 2011, there are about 99 000 healthcare professionals from 13 healthcare professions that are subject to statutory registration as at end 2016. They comprised 14 013 doctors, 2 441 dentists, 424 dental hygienists, 52 389 registered and enrolled nurses², 4 540 midwives², 9 909 registered CMPs and listed CMPs, 2 659 pharmacists, 1 911 occupational therapists (OTs), 2 956 physiotherapists (PTs), 3 443 medical laboratory technologists (MLTs), 2 180 optometrists, 2 209 radiographers and 209 chiropractors.

² In terms of registrants, of whom some individuals may hold multiple registrations as registered nurses, enrolled nurses and registered midwives.

Figure 1.1 Healthcare professionals (as at end 2016)

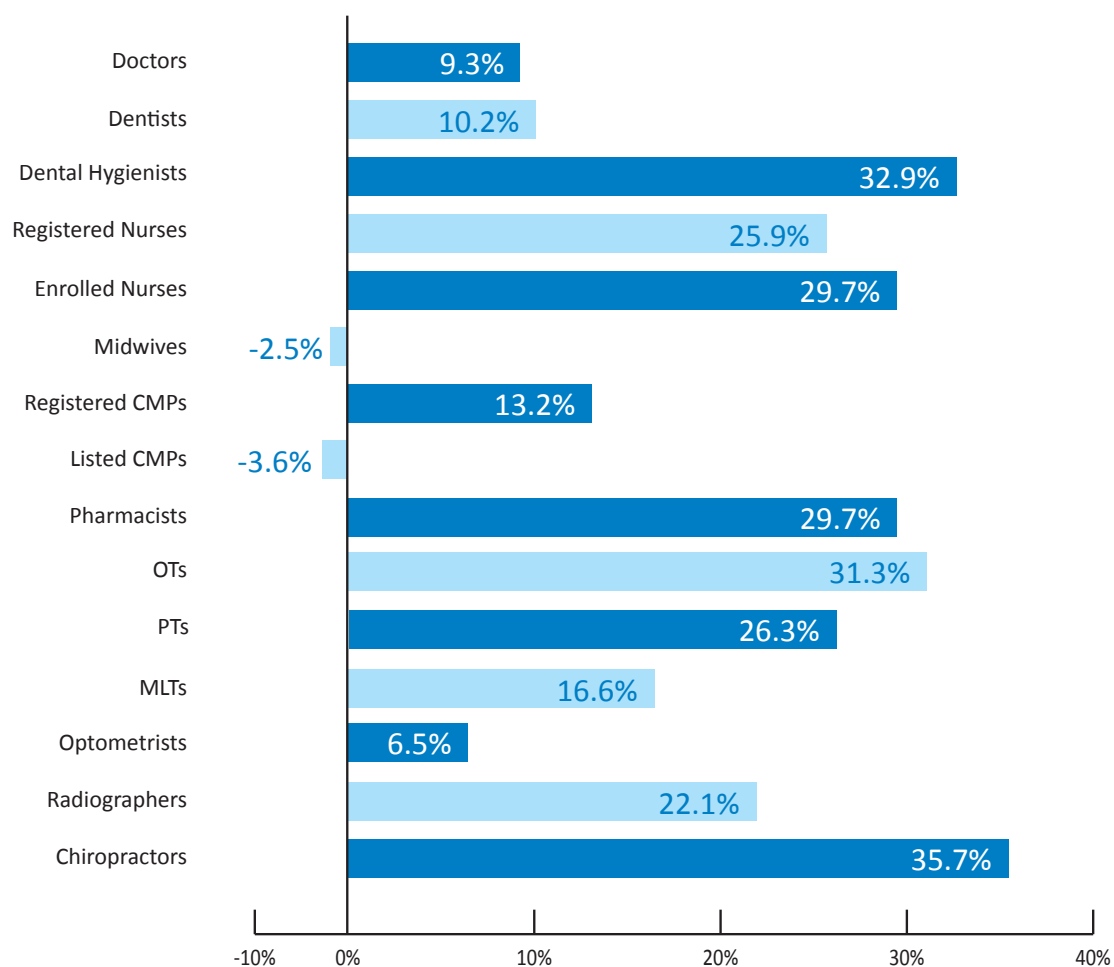


Source : DH

■ Registered Nurses 39 178 (39.5%)	■ Listed CMPs 2 647 (2.7%)
■ Doctors 14 013 (14.1%)	■ Dentists 2 441 (2.5%)
■ Enrolled Nurses 13 211 (13.3%)	■ Radiographers 2 209 (2.2%)
■ Registered CMPs 7 262 (7.3%)	■ Optometrists 2 180 (2.2%)
■ Midwives 4 540 (4.6%)	■ OTs 1 911 (1.9%)
■ MLTs 3 443 (3.5%)	■ Dental Hygienists 424 (0.4%)
■ PTs 2 956 (3%)	■ Chiropractors 209 (0.2%)
■ Pharmacists 2 659 (2.7%)	

Note : Percentage in brackets denotes the proportion of respective healthcare professionals over total number.

Figure 1.2 Growth of healthcare professionals, 2011-2016



Source : DH

Figure 1.3 Healthcare professionals per 1 000 population, 1990-2016³

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016
Doctors	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Dentists	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Nurses (registered and enrolled)	4.8	5.6	6.0	5.2	5.7	6.9	7.1
Midwives	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
CMPs	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Pharmacists	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
OTs	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
PTs	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
MLTs	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Optometrists	N/A	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Radiographers	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Chiropractors	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03

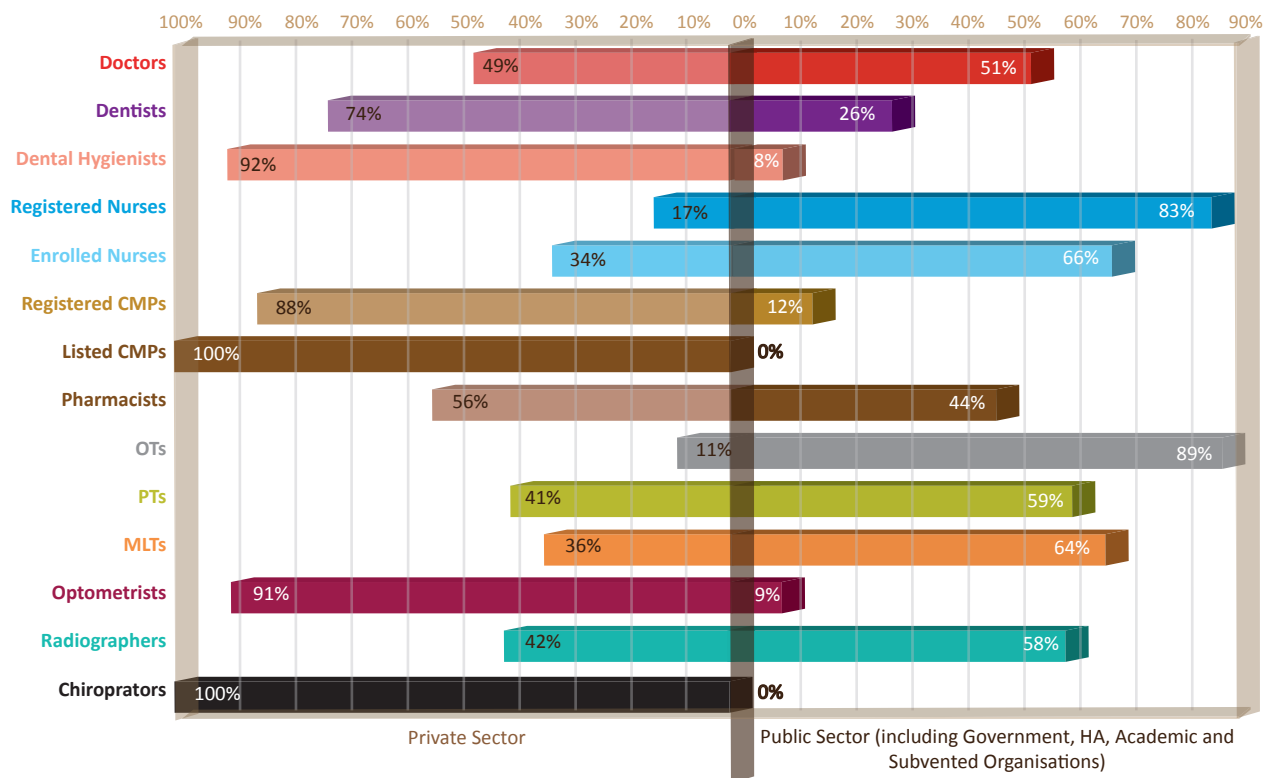
Source : DH

³ Figures are as at end of the respective year. Besides year-on-year fluctuation due to joiners and leavers, the number of midwives in 2001 and nurses in 2005 showed marked drops from the preceding year as a result of removal of names (over 7 000 midwives and 10 000 nurses) from the corresponding register/roll of those who failed to comply with the requirement to obtain a valid practising certificate. The figures before the year concerned refer to the cumulative sum of midwives and nurses who had registered or enrolled with the licensing authorities. Eligible health professionals might have re-registered/re-enrolled in subsequent years.

1.3.2 Based on the latest Health Manpower Surveys (HMSs), 51% of doctors worked in the public sector⁴. The majority of nurses, OTs, PTs, MLTs and radiographers worked in the public sector. Healthcare professionals who were more commonly engaged in the private sector include dentists, dental hygienists, registered and listed CMPs, pharmacists, optometrists and chiropractors.

⁴ Public sector includes Government, HA, academic institutions and subvented organisations unless otherwise specified.

Figure 1.4 Healthcare professionals by type of work sector



Source: HMS, DH

Healthcare professions subject to statutory registration



DOCTORS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Full registration	14 013
Provisional registration	379
Limited registration	134
Temporary registration	81

Registered specialists	6 797
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Doctor to population ratio	1 : 526
Proportion of public and private practice	51% : 49%

HA employs over 40% of registered doctors in HK.

Male to female ratio	68%(Male); 32%(Female)
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Median age	46
Age distribution	
20-29	10.1%
30-39	23.6%
40-49	25.8%
50-59	19.7%
≥60	20.8%

* Based on information from 13 689 doctors with full registration (around 98% of total number of doctors with full registration) whose date of birth information is available.

Regulatory body	Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK)
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Training of doctors	The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
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Training of specialists	Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM)
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The training cycle of a specialist is very long. It takes at least 13 years to become a specialist (six of basic medical training, a year of internship training at HA and at least six years of specialist training).

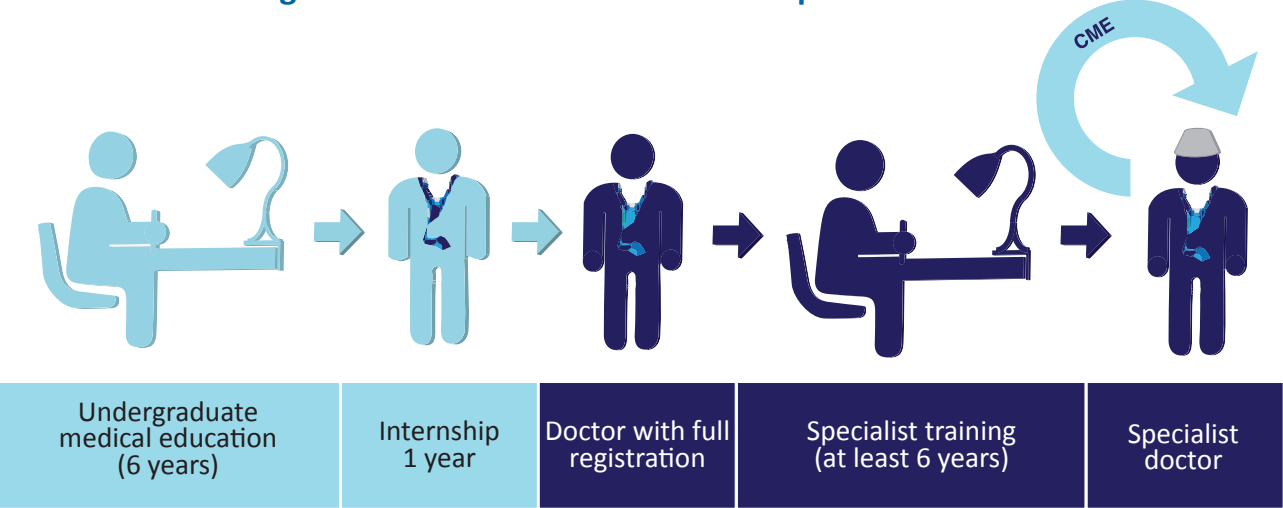
1.3.3 As at end 2016, there were 14 013 doctors with full registration and 134 doctors with limited registration in Hong Kong. Among them, 6 797 doctors were registered as specialists. The number of doctors in Hong Kong has been increasing steadily. There were 3 632 and 4 887 doctors in Hong Kong in 1980 and 1985 respectively, amounting to a ratio of 0.7 and 0.9 doctors per 1 000 population. Following the establishment of the second medical school, with the first batch of students being conferred the medical degree in 1986, the number of doctors further increased to 1.1 per 1 000 population by 1990 and 1.9 per 1 000 population by 2016.

1.3.4 A total of 51% of doctors worked in the public sector including HA, DH, subvented and academic institutions. The rest were engaged in the private sector. The median age was 46. About 32% of registered doctors were female and 68% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 27% and 73% respectively.

1.3.5 There are currently two medical schools in Hong Kong providing basic medical training of doctors. People wishing to become doctors must undergo a six-year medical programme leading to a degree in medicine and surgery offered by either CUHK or HKU. After being awarded a degree in medicine and surgery by the local medical school, medical students are granted provisional registration to undergo a year of internship training at HA before they are

eligible for registration with MCHK as registered doctor.

Figure 1.5 From medical student to specialist doctor

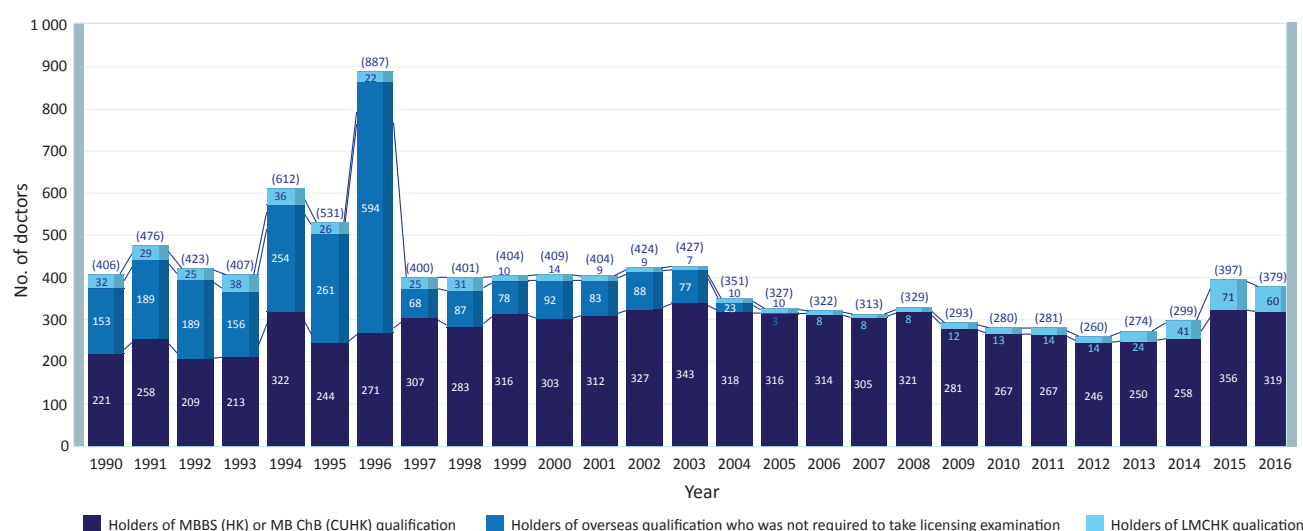


1.3.6 Doctor who has successfully completed internship is eligible to apply for specialist training. HKAM is the statutory body in Hong Kong responsible for the training of specialists. Its 15 colleges offer training in 66 specialties including the dental specialties. After a period of training which lasts for at least six years, a doctor will have to pass an exit examination before being awarded the Fellowship of HKAM and thus becoming eligible for registration with MCHK as a specialist. Specialist doctors need to undergo continuous medical education (CME) to maintain their specialist qualification in Hong Kong.

1.3.7 Non-locally trained doctors were once an important source of doctor supply in Hong Kong, when medical qualifications of recognised Commonwealth countries were recognised by MCHK for registration before September 1996. Since then, all non-locally trained doctors⁵ are required to pass the Licensing Examination administered by MCHK and complete a specified period of internship assessment before they can register with full registration for practice in Hong Kong. As a result, the share of newly registered doctors who held a non-local medical qualification dropped significantly, from an average of 56% for the five years between 1992 and 1996 to 13% for the five years between 2012 and 2016.

⁵ Except for those non-locally trained doctors registered under the transitional provision in section 35 of the Medical Registration Ordinance.

Figure 1.6 Qualifications of the newly registered doctors (1990-2016)

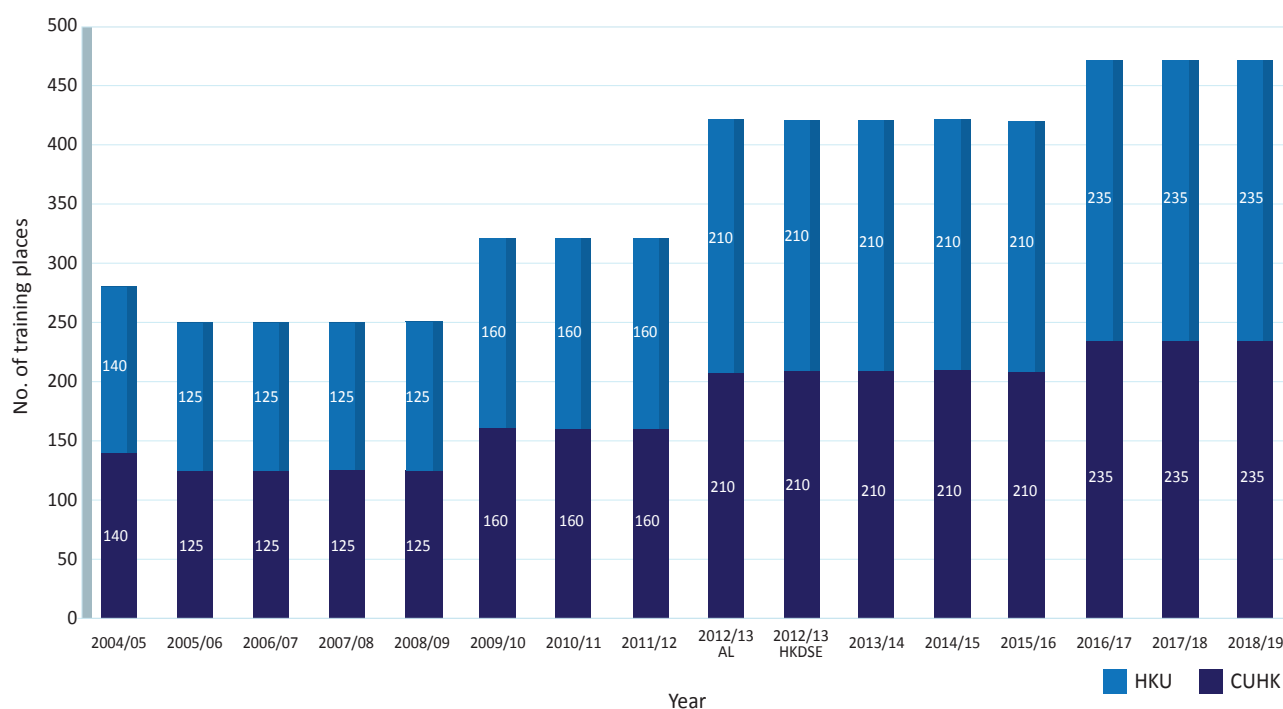


Source: MCHK

1.3.8 Local medical graduates have hitherto become a principal source of doctor supply in Hong Kong. Student intake of the two local medical schools has increased from 250 in the

2005/06 academic year to 320 in the 2009/10 academic year and 420 in the 2012/13 academic year, further to 470 in the 2016/17 academic year.

Figure 1.7 Publicly-funded degree places in medicine



Source: University Grants Committee (UGC)

Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

Non-locally trained doctors

Full registration through passage of Licensing Examination and completion of internship assessment

1.3.9 Non-locally trained doctors can register and practise in Hong Kong subject to the passage of the Licensing Examination administered by MCHK and completed a specified period of internship at HA.

1.3.10 The Licensing Examination consists of three parts, namely, Examination in Professional Knowledge (Part I), Proficiency Test

in Medical English (Part II), and Clinical Examination (Part III). The Licensing Examination used to be held annually. MCHK has increased the frequency of the Licensing Examination from once to twice a year starting from 2014. The number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination and the passing rates of the examination in the past five years are at Figure 1.8.

Figure 1.8 Number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination of MCHK and the passing rates

Year	No. of candidates					
	Examination in Professional Knowledge (Part I)		Proficiency Test in Medical English (Part II)		Clinical Examination (Part III)	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	237	61 (26%)	74	67 (91%)	108	47 (44%)
2013	280	102 (36%)	115	103 (90%)	143	46 (32%)
2014	307	60 (20%)	105	80 (76%)	155	74 (48%)
2015	297	59 (20%)	98	80 (82%)	128	40 (31%)
2016	295	36 (12%)	97	90 (93%)	132	41 (31%)

Source: MCHK

1.3.11 Efforts have been made by MCHK to introduce more flexibility into the internship arrangement for non-locally trained doctors with specialist qualifications. Under the new arrangement, any person who has passed the Licensing Examination is eligible to apply for exemption from a specialty of internship training if he/she has a specialist qualification comparable to a Fellowship of the Colleges under HKAM. The internship training can be shortened from one year to six months. In 2015, MCHK has also refined certain exemption requirements for the Licensing Examination. For Part III of the Licensing

Examination i.e. Clinical Examination, the minimum requirement of post-registration experience in the relevant discipline(s) of an applicant applying exemption has been reduced from ten years to six years. On the requirement of recognition of the specialist qualification, it has refined from “having outstanding qualities and being an internationally renowned medical practitioner in the opinion of the Licentiate Committee” to “a specialist qualification in the relevant discipline(s) comparable to a Fellowship of HKAM”.

Limited registration

1.3.12 Alternatively, non-locally trained doctors with proven experience and knowledge employed by institutions as specified in promulgations of MCHK may apply to MCHK for limited registration in Hong Kong. The maximum duration of limited registration is one year. Upon expiry of the registration, the

person can apply to MCHK for renewal for another period of one year.

1.3.13 MCHK has published 12 promulgations. The types of employment as described in promulgations no. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 no longer exist. The details of the six promulgations which are still valid are set out below.

Figure 1.9 Valid promulgations for limited registration

Promulgation No.	Employment	Gazette
No.2	For the following types of full-time employment:- (a) Employment as a medical practitioner by the Government for the purpose of research work or for such clinical practice of medicine or special health care services, as specified by the Director of Health; (b) Employment as a medical practitioner by HA for the purpose of research work or for such clinical practice of medicine or hospital work, as specified by the Authority; (c) Employment as a medical practitioner by CUHK or HKU for the purpose of teaching, research or performing hospital work, in the Faculty of Medicine	23.12.1994
No.3	Being such persons (whose names were entered prior to the end of 1964 into a list maintained by the Registrar of Clinics, DH) appointed for the provision of primary healthcare, and to be responsible for the medical management of those clinics exempted from the provisions of section 7 of the Medical Clinics Ordinance, Cap. 343	3.11.1995
No.4	Being such persons (whose names were entered prior to the end of 1964 into a list maintained by the Registrar of Clinics, DH and who are or who have been registered under Promulgation No. 3 of MCHK on Limited Registration) appointed for the provision of primary healthcare, and to be responsible for the medical management of those clinics registered under the Medical Clinics Ordinance, Cap. 343	9.11.2001
No.9	Employment for the purpose of supervising the medical matters which may arise in connexion with the construction work in compressed air for the Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link – Northern Connection Sub-sea Tunnel Section project under Highways Department’s contract number HY/2012/08	20.3.2015
No.10	Employment by a firm of solicitors registered by the Law Society of Hong Kong to carry out a medical examination of a person in Hong Kong for the sole purpose of preparing a medical expert report on that person for use in a pending court proceedings in Hong Kong	17.7.2015
No.12	Employment for the purpose of the annual rugby event “Sevens World Series”	21.8.2015

Source: MCHK

1.3.14 As at end 2016, there were a total of 134 doctors with limited registration in Hong Kong, who were employed by the two medical schools (79 persons), HA (14 persons), clinics that have been exempted from the provisions

of section 7 of the Medical Clinics Ordinance (27 persons) or clinics registered under the Medical Clinics Ordinance (12 persons) and works contractor commissioned by the Highways Department (2 persons).

Figure 1.10 No. of doctors with limited registration

Promulgation	as at Dec 2012	as at Dec 2013	as at Dec 2014	as at Dec 2015	as at Dec 2016
No.2	118	115	97	104	93
CUHK	(62)	(58)	(51)	(62)	(52)
HKU	(45)	(45)	(33)	(30)	(27)
HA	(11)	(12)	(13)	(12)	(14)
DH	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
No.3	41	36	34	31	27
No.4	16	15	15	13	12
No.9	-	-	-	2	2
No.10	-	-	-	0	0
No.12	-	-	-	0	0
Total	175	166	146	150	134

Source: MCHK

No. of newly registered doctors (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.15 The annual average number of full registration doctors with local qualifications newly registered in 2012 - 2016 was 280 (87%), while the average number of full registration doctors with non-local qualifications was 42 (13%).



DENTISTS

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered dentists	2 441
Registered dental specialists	260

Dentist to population ratio	1 : 3 021
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Proportion of public and private practice	26% : 74%
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The majority of registered dentists are in private practice.

Male to female ratio	68%(Male); 32%(Female)
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Median age	48
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Age distribution

20-29	12.0%
30-39	21.6%
40-49	20.7%
50-59	27.9%
≥60	17.8%

* Based on information from 2 392 dentists (around 98% of total number of registrants) whose date of birth information is available.

Regulatory body	Dental Council of Hong Kong (DCHK)
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Training of dentists	HKU
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The Faculty of Dentistry of HKU is the sole provider of undergraduate training in dentistry.

Training of specialists	HKAM (The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong)
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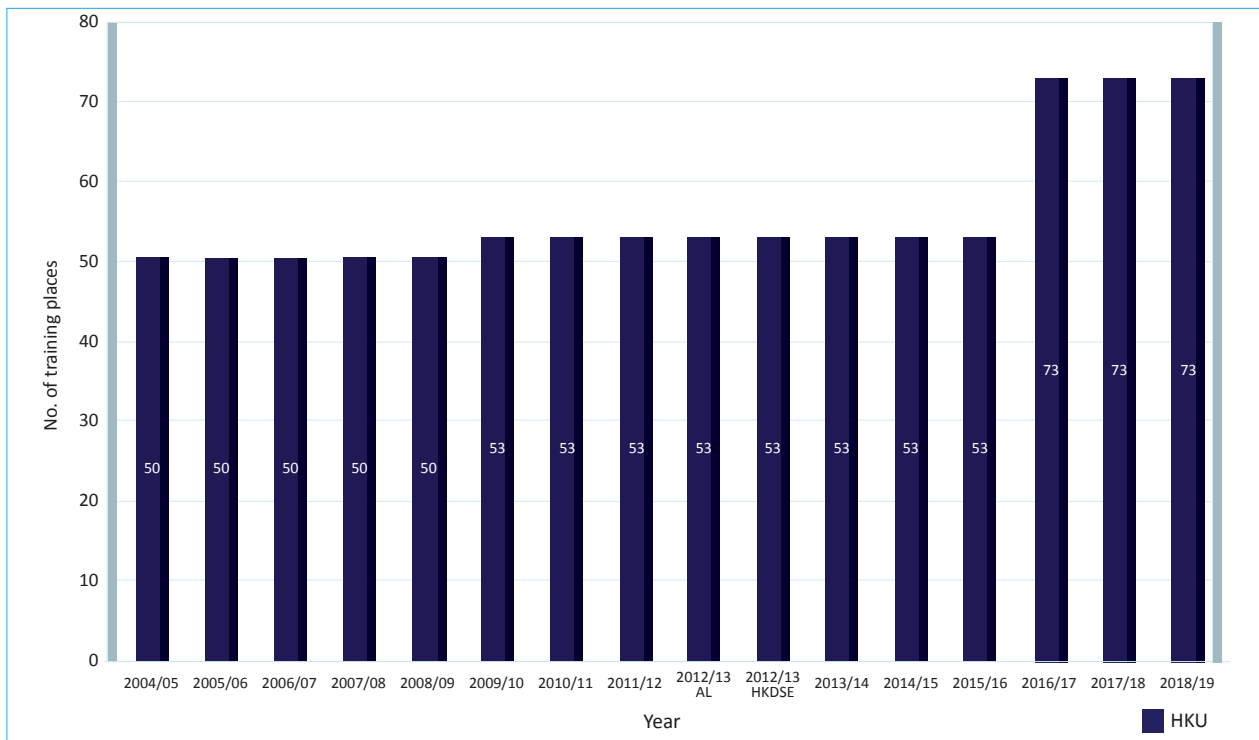
The training cycle of a specialist is very long. It takes at least 12 years to become a specialist (six years of basic dentistry training, and at least six years of specialist training).

1.3.16 As at end 2016, there were 2 441 registered dentists in Hong Kong. Among them, 260 were dental specialists. There were 74% of dentists worked in the private sector. The rest were engaged in government dental clinics or oral maxillofacial surgery and dental units of public hospitals, subvented and academic sectors. The median age was 48. About 32% of registered dentists were female and 68% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 27% and 73% respectively.

1.3.17 Hong Kong had been relying on the supply of foreign-trained dentists until the first batch of dental students graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry of HKU in 1985. Today, the school continues to be the sole provider of undergraduate training in dentistry, enrolling about 50 students each year in the past, and the number of student intake has been increased to 73 a year in the 2016/17 academic year. People wishing to become dentists must undertake a six-year course leading to a degree in dentistry offered by HKU. Thereafter, dental graduates may register with DCHK for practice in Hong Kong without having to undergo any dental internship.

1.3.18 The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong under HKAM organises, monitors, assesses and accredits specialist training, which lasts for at least six years, for one aspires to register with DCHK as a dental specialist.

Figure 1.11 Publicly-funded degree places in dentistry



Source: UGC

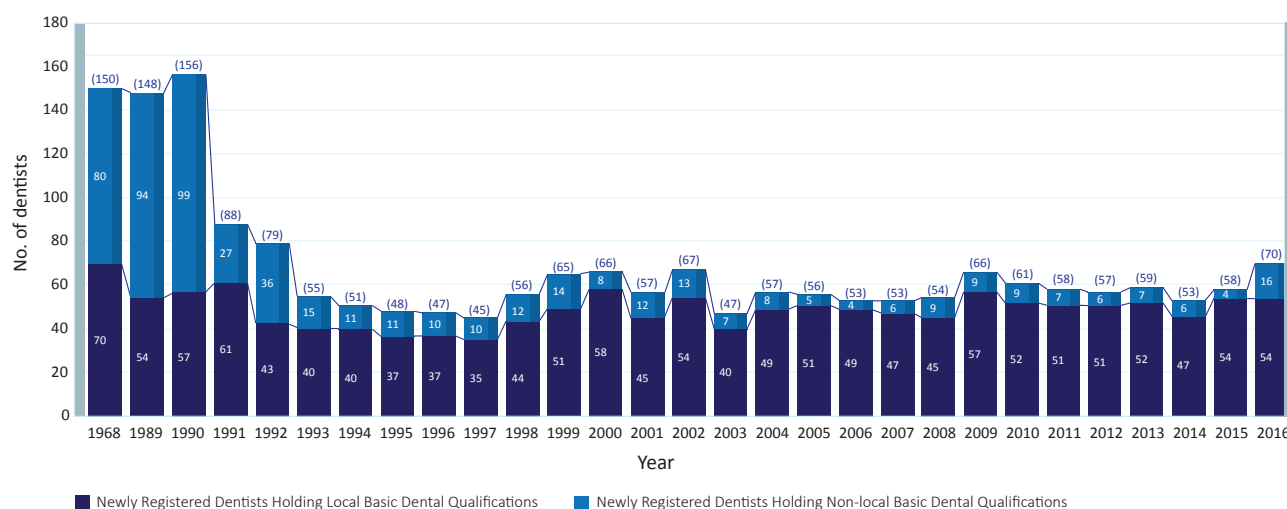
Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

Non-locally trained dentists

1.3.19 Non-locally trained dentists are required to take a licensing examination administered by DCHK to qualify for registration and practise in Hong Kong. Similar to the case of doctors, non-locally trained graduates in dentistry with recognised qualifications, including those from Commonwealth countries, were eligible for registration in Hong Kong before October 1992.⁶ As a result of mandating a licensing examination for all non-locally trained dentists, the percentage of newly registered dentists holding a non-local basic dental qualification dropped significantly, from an average of 54% for the five years between 1988 and 1992 to 13% for the five years between 2012 and 2016.

⁶ With effect from 1 April 1990, holders of primary dental qualifications granted in Australia, Canada, the US and South Africa were required to pass DCHK's Licensing Examination as a pre-requisite for registration. With effect from 1 October 1992, holders of primary dental qualifications granted in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Singapore and New Zealand were required to take the Licensing Examination as a pre-requisite for registration.

Figure 1.12 Qualifications of the newly registered dentists (1988-2016)



Source: DCHK

1.3.20 The Licensing Examination for non-locally trained dentists consists of three parts, namely, Written Test (Part I), Practical Test (Part II) and Clinical Test (Part III). The number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination and the passing rates of the examination in the past five years are at Figure 1.13.

DCHK increases the frequency of Licensing Examination for non-locally trained dentists from once a year to twice a year starting from 2015.⁷

⁷ DCHK endorsed to increase the frequency of the Licensing Examination from once to twice a year in 2015. As a transitional arrangement, only one sitting was held in 2015 and three sittings were held in 2016.

Figure 1.13 Number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination of DCHK and the passing rates

Year	No. of candidates					
	Written Test (Part I)		Practical Test (Part II)		Clinical Examination (Part III)	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	46	4 (9%)	28	9 (32%)	10	7 (70%)
2013	45	4 (9%)	16	3 (19%)	8	6 (75%)
2014	53	17 (32%)	27	7 (26%)	8	3 (38%)
2015	40	3 (8%)	17	7 (41%)	18	12 (67%)
2016	89	20 (22%)	47	13 (28%)	32	19 (59%)

Source: DCHK

1.3.21 DCHK has further improved the arrangement of certain parts of the Licensing Examination starting from 2015, including allowing candidates to re-sit those unsuccessful part(s) for certain papers of the licensing examination, while retaining partial pass results for the successful ones. DCHK has also updated its result retention policy⁸ and examination admission arrangement⁹.

⁸ In the past, candidates were allowed to retain the partial pass results for two years only. Under the revised policy, candidates are allowed to retain partial pass results in Parts I, II and III for four diets or four years, whichever event occurs first. This condition applies to the partial pass results obtained in the Licensing Examination in 2015 and/or after. It also applies to the valid partial pass results obtained in the Licensing Examination in 2013 and/or 2014 under the old result retention policy.

⁹ In the past, candidates were required to pass Part I before proceeding to Part II and to pass Part II before proceeding to Part III. Under the revised policy, after passing Part I, candidates are allowed to apply to sit the Examination in the same diet for –
(i) only Part II ; or
(ii) both Part II and Part III irrespective of the result of Part II.

No. of newly registered dentists (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.22 The average number of newly registered dentists with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 52 (87%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 8 (13%).



DENTAL HYGIENISTS

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Enrolled dental hygienists	424
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Proportion of public and private practice	8% : 92%
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Over 90% of dental hygienists are engaged in the private sector.

Male to female ratio	5%(Male); 95%(Female)
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The vast majority of dental hygienists are female.

Regulatory body	DCHK
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Training of dental hygienists	HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKU SPACE) Community College
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1.3.23 Dental hygienists refer to persons who have met the qualifications prescribed in section 3 of the Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations (Cap. 156B) (Regulations) and are enrolled with DCHK for enrolment as dental hygienists. The scope of work of a dental hygienist mainly includes cleaning and scaling of teeth, exposure of oral x-ray films, and giving of advice on matters relating to dental hygiene in accordance with the directions of a registered dentist. Once enrolled, dental hygienists will stay on the list without the need of annual renewal. There were 424 dental hygienists as at end 2016. Over 90% of dental hygienists are engaged in the private sector. About 95% of dental hygienists were female and 5% were male. The female and male ratio was more or less the same as in 2007.

1.3.24 HKU SPACE Community College provides higher diploma programme in dental hygiene for people who aspire to become dental hygienists. The programme is supported by the Prince Philip Dental Hospital (PPDH). Except for dental hygienists who have to enrol with DCHK, the other ancillary dental personnel such as dental nurses, dental technicians and dental therapists are not subject to an enrolment registration system.



NURSES

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered nurses (General)	36 555
Registered nurses (Psychiatric)	2 612
Registered nurses (Mentally Sub-normal)	5
Registered nurses (Sick Children)	6
Enrolled nurses (General)	11 719
Enrolled nurses (Psychiatric)	1 492

Nurses, comprising registered nurses and enrolled nurses, constitute more than half of the total healthcare workforce in Hong Kong.

Nurse to population ratio	1 : 141
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Proportion of public and private practice	Registered nurses: 83% : 17% Enrolled nurses: 66% : 34%
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Male to female ratio	Registered nurses: 15%(Male); 85%(Female) Enrolled nurses: 11%(Male); 89%(Female)
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The majority of nurses are female.

Median age (Registered nurses)	42
Median age (Enrolled nurses)	41
Age distribution	
20-29	22.8%
30-39	21.5%
40-49	25.5%
50-59	21.4%
≥ 60	8.8%

* Based on information from 38 954 registered nurses and 13 144 enrolled nurses (around 99% of total number of registrants) whose date of birth information is available.

Regulatory body	Nursing Council of Hong Kong (NCHK)
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Training of nurses	Accredited pre-service nursing programmes offered by training institutions, HA and private hospitals
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There is a strong and vibrant self-financing sector dedicated to nurse training, in addition to nurse programmes offered by UGC-funded institutions. CUHK, HKU and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) provide a total of 630 UGC-funded first-year-first-degree places and 125 senior-year intake places each year. HA, private hospitals and other tertiary institutions operate in parallel a variety of self-financed nursing programmes, which add up to about 2 200 places annually. All in all, there are around 3 000 nursing training places offered each year.

1.3.25 Nurses, comprising registered nurses and enrolled nurses, constitute more than half of the healthcare workforce in Hong Kong. Nurses must register or enrol with NCHK before they are allowed to practise. As at end 2016, there were 52 389 nurses (in terms of registrants, not headcounts which will be lower because of multiple registration), comprising 39 178 registered nurses and 13 211 enrolled nurses, or alternatively interpreted as 48 274 general nurses and 4 104 psychiatric nurses and 11 nurses of other streams (mentally sub-normal and sick children).

1.3.26 83% of registered nurses and 66% of enrolled nurses were working in the public sector. The median age of registered and enrolled nurses was 42 and 41 respectively. About 85% of registered nurses were female

and 15% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 88% and 12% respectively. For enrolled nurses, 89% were female and 11% were male, as compared with 92% and 8% in 2007.

1.3.27 Training of registered nurses is provided through either higher / professional diploma or degree programmes which last from three to five years depending on the course structure. Training of enrolled nurses is provided through two-year diploma or higher diploma programmes. Part-time courses and conversion programmes to enable the migration of enrolled nurses to registered nurses are also available. For registered and enrolled nurses alike, students can opt to study general nursing or specialise in psychiatric nursing.

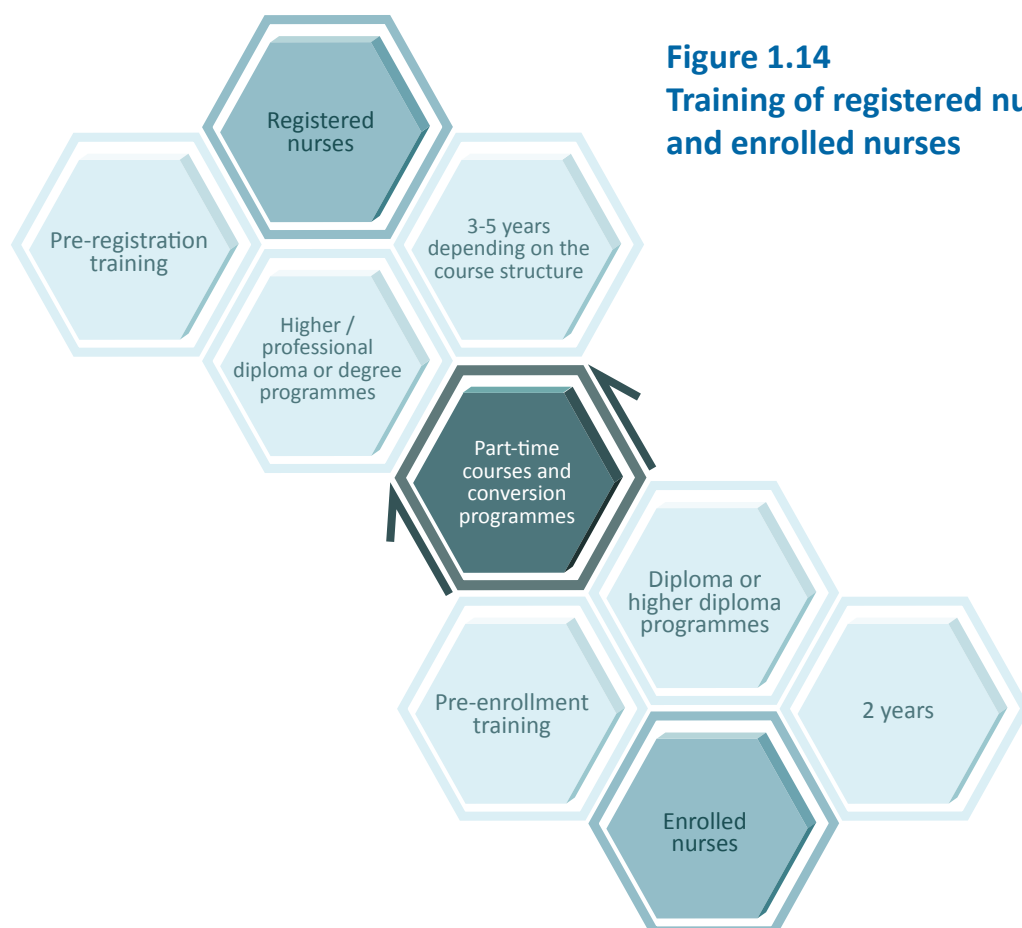
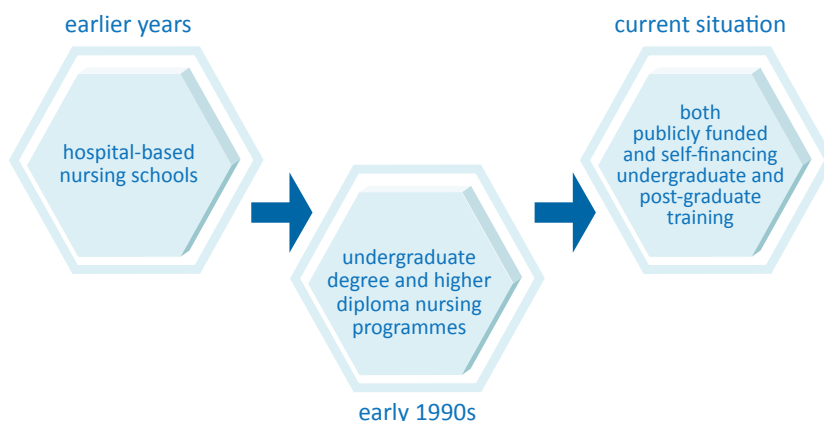


Figure 1.14
Training of registered nurses
and enrolled nurses

1.3.28 Nursing education used to be provided by hospital-based nursing schools in earlier years, when nursing training followed an apprenticeship system under which students learned while working full-time in the wards,

supplemented by structured classroom study. It was until the early 1990s that universities started to offer undergraduate degree and higher diploma nursing programmes.

Figure 1.15 Evolution of nursing education



1.3.29 To alleviate the shortage of nurses in the welfare sector, the Social Welfare Department (SWD) has collaborated with HA since 2006 to organise a two-year Enrolled Nurse (General) / Enrolled Nurse (Psychiatric) Training Programme. A total of 14 training classes have been organised so far, providing a total of about 1 800 training places. The Training Programme is fully subsidised by the Government. Trainees are required to sign an undertaking to work in the welfare sector continuously for two years upon graduation. Among the graduates of the first 11 classes, over 90% have joined the social welfare sector after graduation.

1.3.30 Today, there is a flourishing market for training nurses in Hong Kong. Three universities (CUHK, HKU and PolyU) provide an annual total of 630 publicly-funded first-year-first-degree places and 125 senior year places in nursing. Meanwhile, the Open University of Hong Kong (OpenU), HKU SPACE, HKU SPACE Community College, Tung Wah College (TWC), Caritas Institute of Higher Education (Caritas), four nursing schools of HA and another four operated by private hospitals offer some 2 200 places annually on self-financing basis.

Figure 1.16 Training of nurses in Hong Kong

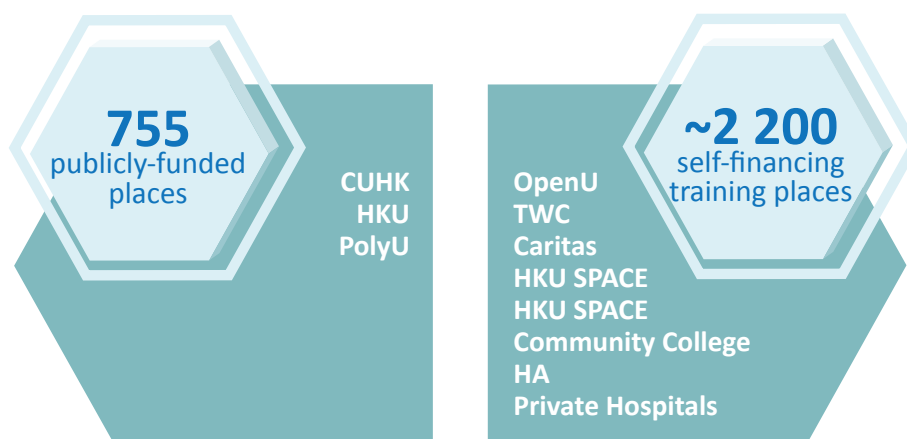
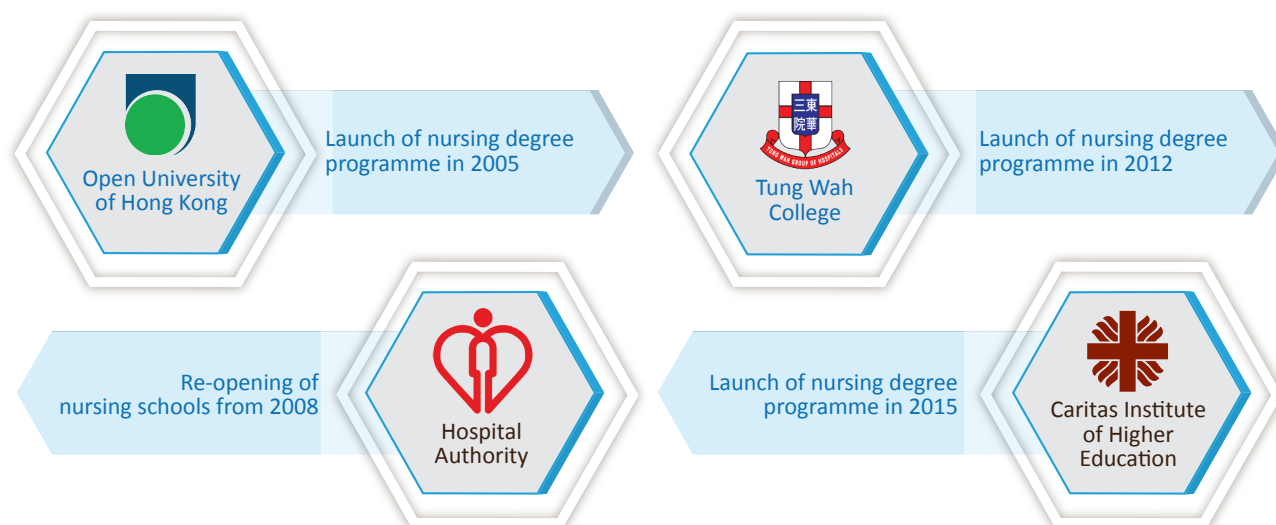


Figure 1.17 Increase in the training capacity for nurses in the self-financing sector

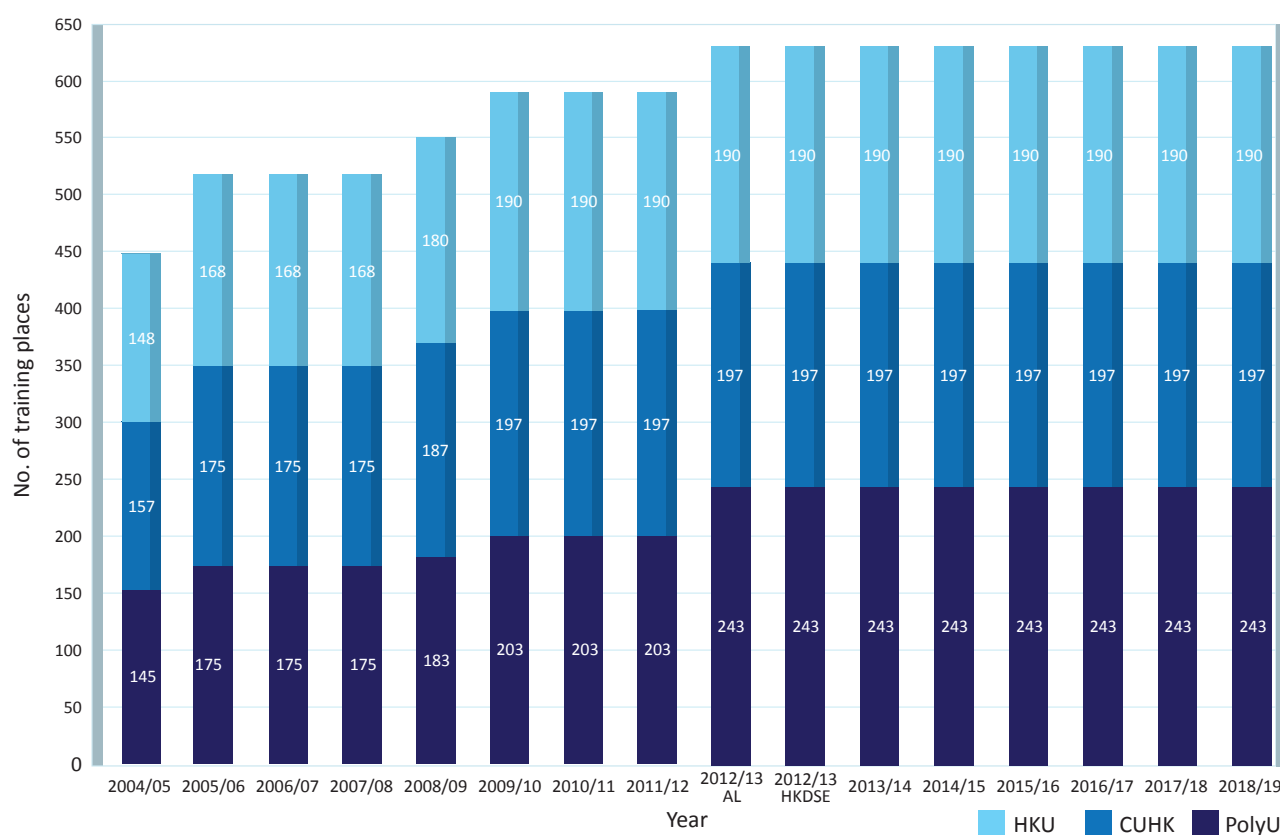


1.3.31 The Government has introduced the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) to subsidise about 1 000 students per cohort starting from the 2015/16 academic year to pursue designated full-time locally-accredited self-financing local undergraduate programmes in selected disciplines with keen manpower demand, including healthcare. The number of subsidised training places will increase to about 3 000 per cohort starting from the 2018/19 academic year when the scheme is regularised. Under SSSDP, a total of 420 places of nursing programmes¹⁰ were subsidised for the 2015/16 cohort, and a total of 480 places of nursing programmes¹¹ have been / will be subsidised for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 cohorts respectively.

¹⁰ 150 places in general nursing and 70 places in psychiatric nursing offered by OpenU and 200 places of the nursing programme offered by TWC.

¹¹ 60 places of nursing programme to be offered by Caritas in addition to the 420 places mentioned in footnote 10.

Figure 1.18 Publicly-funded degree places in nursing



Source: UGC

Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

Non-locally trained nurses

1.3.32 Non-locally trained nurses who wish to practise in Hong Kong should meet the requirements for registration prescribed by NCHK, which includes the Licensing Examination administered by NCHK. The Licensing Examination for non-locally trained nurses consists of a written part and a practical part. The number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination and the passing rates of the examination in the past five years are at Figure 1.19.

Figure 1.19 Number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination of NCHK and the passing rates (general registered and enrolled nurses)

Year	No. of candidates			
	Written Test		Practical Test	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	192	98 (51%)	176	41 (23%)
2013	182	61 (34%)	162	50 (31%)
2014	204	70 (34%)	152	29 (19%)
2015	177	62 (35%)	127	40 (31%)
2016	145	60 (41%)	98	32 (33%)

Source: NCHK

1.3.33 NCHK has increased the frequency of the written part of the Licensing Examination for non-locally trained registered nurses from once to twice a year from 2016.

No. of newly registered and enrolled nurses (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.34 The annual average number of newly registered nurses with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 1 695 (98%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 27 (2%). The annual average number of newly enrolled nurses with local qualifications was 792 (98%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 13 (2%).



MIDWIVES KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered midwives	4 540
Midwife to population ratio	1 : 1 624
Proportion of public and private practice	85% : 15%
Male to female ratio	0%(Male); 100%(Female)

Midwife may hold dual registration in both nursing and midwifery. About 95% of registered midwives possess registered nurses registration.

Regulatory body	Midwives Council of Hong Kong
Training of specialists	School of Midwifery of the Prince of Wales Hospital (Clinical placement will be conducted in the maternity unit of various clinical training grounds approved by the Midwives Council of Hong Kong)

The School of Midwifery of the Prince of Wales Hospital is currently the only institution providing midwifery training in Hong Kong. It runs an 18-month post-registration diploma course in midwifery which admits only registered nurses. Any person who wishes to practise as a midwife in Hong Kong has to pass the Midwives Council Examination before he/she can register with the Midwives Council of Hong Kong.

1.3.35 The School of Midwifery of the Prince of Wales Hospital is currently the only institution providing midwifery training in Hong Kong. It runs an 18-month post-registration diploma course in midwifery which admits only registered nurses.

1.3.36 It is noted that about (95%) midwives possess registered nurses registrations. Only 40% of them were working in the field of midwifery, obstetrics and gynaecology, owing to the low fertility rate in Hong Kong.

Non-locally trained midwives

1.3.37 Non-locally trained midwives who wish to practise in Hong Kong should meet the requirements for registration prescribed by the Midwives Council of Hong Kong, which include the Licensing Examination administered by the Council. The Licensing Examination consists of a written part and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Results of licensing examination (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.38 Any person who wishes to practise as a midwife in Hong Kong has to pass the Midwives Council Examination before he/she can register with the Midwives Council of Hong Kong. The results of Licensing Examination for 2012 - 2016 are as follows.

Figure 1.20 Number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination of the Midwives Council of Hong Kong and the passing rates

Year	No. of candidates			
	Written Test		OSCE	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	81	81 (100%)	81	80 (99%)
2013	95	93 (98%)	96	95 (99%)
2014	86	84 (98%)	87	83 (95%)
2015	68	66 (97%)	67	65 (97%)
2016	89	88 (99%)	88	88 (100%)

Source: Midwives Council of Hong Kong

No. of newly registered midwives (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.39 The annual average number of newly registered midwives with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 79 (96%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 3 (4%).



CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered CMPs	7 262
Listed CMPs	2 647
CMPs with limited registration	47

The number of listed CMPs is declining over the years while the number of registered CMPs is rising.

Male to female ratio (Registered CMPs)	63%(Male); 37%(Female)
Median age (Listed CMPs)	76%(Male); 24%(Female)

CMP to population ratio	1 : 744
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Proportion of public and private practice of registered CMPs	12% : 88%
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The vast majority of CMPs, registered or listed, worked in the private sector.

Median age (Registered CMPs)	59
Median age (Listed CMPs)	66
Age distribution	
20-29	5.2%
30-39	11.4%
40-49	8.6%
50-59	20.6%
≥60	54.2%

The CMP profession is a relatively ageing profession as compared to other healthcare professions.

Regulatory body	Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (CMCHK)
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Training of CMPs	Hong Kong Baptist University (BU) CUHK HKU
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A person who aspires to be a CMP must have satisfactorily completed such an undergraduate degree course of training in Chinese Medicine practice or its equivalent, whether or not conferred by a local university, approved by the CMP Board of CMCHK before they can take the Licensing Examination and obtain registration to practise in Hong Kong.

Three local universities, viz. BU, CUHK and HKU, offer six-year undergraduate courses in Chinese Medicine which are recognised by CMCHK as approved courses for Licensing Examination. The number of training place has remained steady over the past decade, around 80 annually.

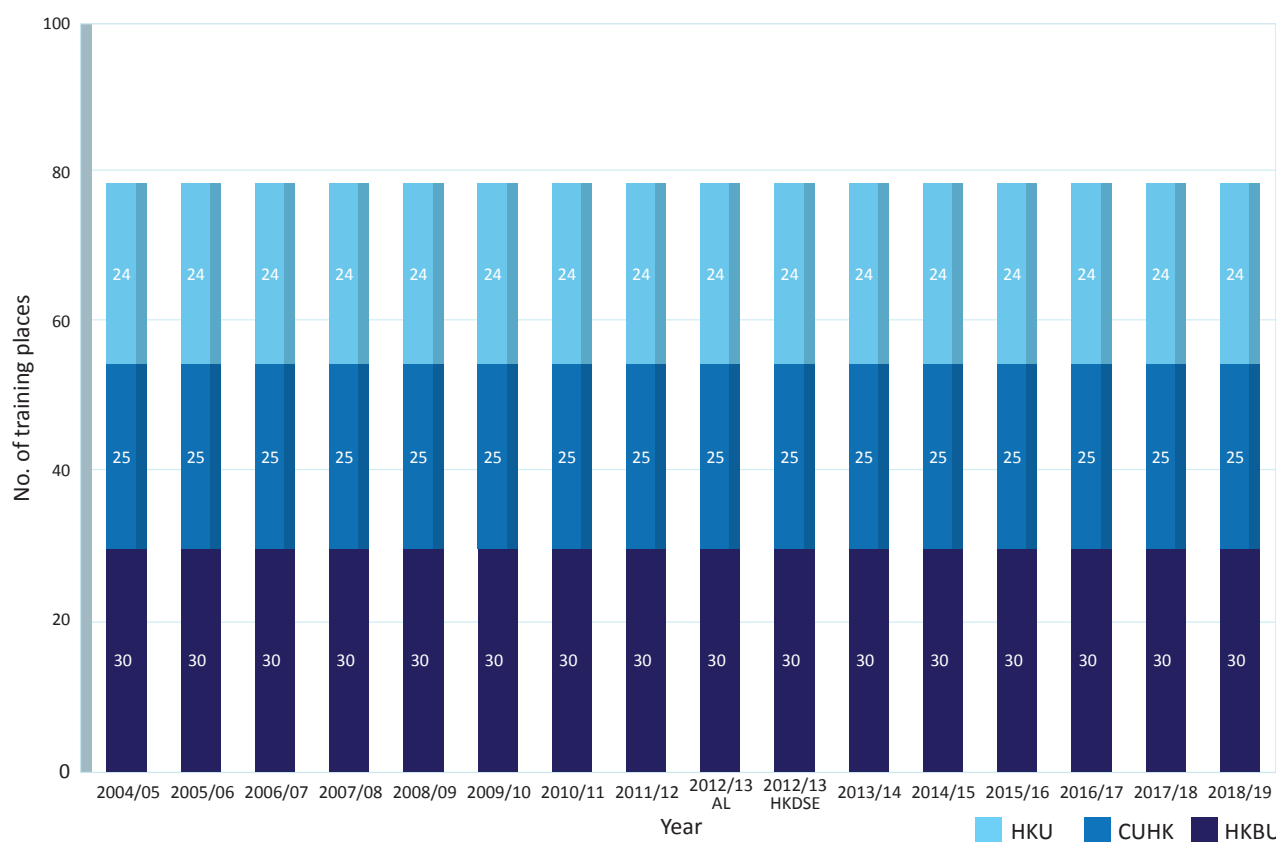
1.3.40 As at end 2016, there were 7 262 registered CMPs and 2 647 listed CMPs in Hong Kong. Only registered CMPs are allowed to prescribe the Chinese herbal medicine listed in Schedule 1 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549). Around 90% of registered CMPs worked in the private sector. The median age was 59 for registered CMPs and 66 for listed CMPs. About 37% of registered CMPs were female and 63% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 30% and 70% respectively. For listed CMPs, about 24% were female and 76% were male, the female and male ratio in 2007 and 2016 are more or less the same.

1.3.41 When the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) was enacted in 1999, a transitional arrangement was put in place to enable all practitioners at that time to continue their practice as listed CMPs until they became registered practitioners either through direct registration, passing the oral registration assessment or passing a licensing examination, according to their practising experience and qualification. The Ordinance provides that listed CMPs may practise in Hong Kong legally until a date to be announced by the Secretary

for Food and Health. There has been a declining number of listed CMPs over the years vis-à-vis rising number of registered CMPs.

1.3.42 Three local universities, viz. BU, CUHK and HKU, offer six-year undergraduate courses in Chinese Medicine which are recognised by CMCHK as approved courses for Licensing Examination. The number of training places has remained steady over the past decade, around 80 annually.

Figure 1.21 Publicly-funded degree places in Chinese Medicine



Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

1.3.43 After registration, a registered CMP must receive continuing education in Chinese Medicine for renewal of practising certificate once every three years. At present, specialist training or specialist registration is not available to CMPs.

1.3.44 Similar to the case of doctors, the Chinese Medicine Ordinance also allows qualified non-locally trained practitioners to work for specified institutions (at present HA, BU, CUHK, the City University of Hong Kong, HKU and PolyU) for the purpose of clinical teaching and/or research by way of limited registration.

Results of licensing examination

1.3.45 A person who aspires to be a CMP must have satisfactorily completed such an undergraduate degree course of training in Chinese Medicine practice or its equivalent, whether or not conferred by a local university, as is approved by the CMP Board of CMCHK before they can take the Licensing Examination and obtain registration to practise in Hong Kong. The results of the Licensing Examination for 2012 - 2016 are as follows.

Figure 1.22 Number of candidates who sat the Licensing Examination of CMCHK and the passing rates

Year	No. of candidates			
	Written Test		Clinical Examination	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	323	239 (74%)	429	199 (46%)
2013	398	257 (65%)	445	200 (45%)
2014	341	244 (72%)	450	203 (45%)
2015	396	292 (74%)	492	211 (43%)
2016	437	348 (80%)	573	237 (41%)

Source: CMCHK

No. of newly registered CMPs (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.46 The average number of candidates passing the Licensing Examination and getting registered for the period from 2012 to 2016 is about 204, including listed CMPs (2; 1%),

locally trained graduates (104; 51%), and non-locally trained graduates who had completed a recognised undergraduate degree course of training in Chinese Medicine, or its equivalent, as approved by the CMP Board of CMCHK (98; 48%).



PHARMACISTS

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered pharmacists 2 659

Non-locally trained pharmacists accounted for 56% newly registered pharmacists in the past five years (2012 to 2016).

Pharmacist to population 1 : 2 774 ratio

Male to female ratio 47%(Male); 53%(Female)

Proportion of public and private practice 44% : 56%

Median age 39

Age distribution

20-29	20.5%
30-39	31.8%
40-49	23.0%
50-59	14.6%
≥60	10.1%

* Based on information from 2 478 registered pharmacists (around 93% of total number of registrants) whose date of birth information is available.

The pharmacist profession is a relatively young profession.

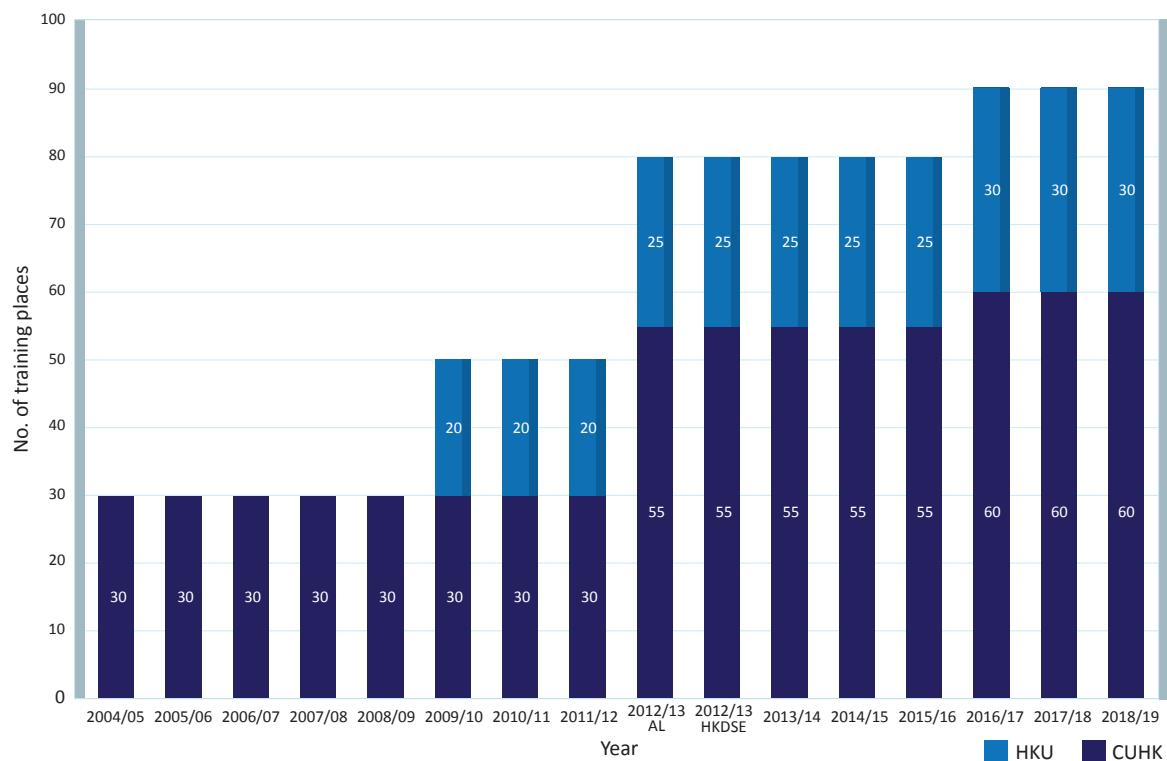
Regulatory body Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong (PPBHK)

Training of pharmacists CUHK
HKU

1.3.47 As at end 2016, there were 2 659 pharmacists in Hong Kong. A total of 44% of pharmacists worked in the public sector, the rest were engaged in the private sector. The median age was 39. About 53% of registered pharmacists were female and 47% were male. In 2007, both genders accounted for half of the profession.

1.3.48 CUHK and HKU offer four-year degree programmes in pharmacy, providing a total of 90 places in the 2016/17 academic year. To qualify for registration with PPBHK, graduates have to complete one year of internship comprising six months of basic training in a hospital and six months of specialty training in a hospital, a community pharmacy or a pharmaceutical manufacturing/wholesale company, both in training institutions accredited by PPBHK.

Figure 1.23 Publicly-funded degree places in pharmacy



Source: UGC

Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

1.3.49 Separation of prescribing from dispensing is not mandatory in Hong Kong, but it is the practice in public and private hospitals. Pharmacists in these settings are responsible for drug management including procurement, storage and distribution, and they supervise dispensers who carry out supporting and dispensing routines. In recent years, the role of hospital pharmacists has also expanded to clinical pharmacy and medication reconciliation for patients at admission and upon discharge.

1.3.50 Community pharmacists are mainly responsible for dispensing drugs and providing medication counseling services. The Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138) requires that certain categories of drugs can only be sold in registered premises of pharmacies by a registered pharmacist or in his presence and under his supervision.

Non-locally trained pharmacists

1.3.51 Non-locally trained pharmacists should meet the prescribed standards set by PPBHK before they can register for practice in Hong Kong. These include the passing of a registration examination, consisting of 3 subjects viz. "Pharmacy Legislation in Hong Kong", "Pharmacy Practice" and "Pharmacology". The results of the Registration Examination for 2012 - 2016 are as follows.

Figure 1.24 Number of candidates who sat the Registration Examination of the Pharmacy & Poisons Board of Hong Kong and the passing rates

Year	No. of candidates					
	Pharmacy Legislation in HK		Pharmacy Practice		Pharmacology	
	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)	Sat	Passed (Passing rate)
2012	193	89 (46%)	155	82 (53%)	268	61 (23%)
2013	179	81 (45%)	128	80 (63%)	221	105 (48%)
2014	184	74 (40%)	156	71 (46%)	205	107 (52%)
2015	216	87 (40%)	199	57 (29%)	174	38 (22%)
2016	159	68 (43%)	194	46 (24%)	181	44 (24%)

Source: PPBHK

No. of newly registered pharmacists (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.52 The annual average number of newly registered pharmacists with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 57 (44%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 73 (56%).

Allied Health Professionals

1.3.53 The following five healthcare professions are subject to statutory regulation under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance

(Cap. 359), namely OTs, PTs, MLTs, optometrists and radiographers.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered OTs	1 911
OT to population ratio	1 : 3 859
Proportion of public and private practice	89% : 11%

Male to female ratio	33%(Male); 67%(Female)
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Median age	33
Age distribution	
20-29	35.1%
30-39	45.4%
40-49	15.3%
50-59	3.6%
≥60	0.6%

* Based on information from 1 413 registered OTs (around 74% of total number of registrants) whose date of birth information is available.

The OT profession is a relatively young profession.

Regulatory body	Supplementary Medical Professions Council (SMP Council) Occupational Therapists Board (OTs Board)
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Training of OTs	PolyU TWC (undergoing accreditation)
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TWC

TWC has started to operate a self-financing programme in occupational therapy, providing about 50 training places in the 2013/14 academic year. The programme is undergoing accreditation by SMP Council. The first cohort of students will graduate in 2017.

1.3.54 As at end 2016, there were 1 911 OTs in Hong Kong. A total of 89% of OTs worked in the public sector. The median age was 33. About 67% of registered OTs were female and 33% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 68% and 32% respectively. People wishing to become OTs must register with OTs Board for practice in Hong Kong.

1.3.55 PolyU is the only institution offering publicly-funded degree programme in the field of occupational therapy, providing 100 training places in the 2016/17 academic year. To alleviate the shortage of allied health professionals in the welfare sector, PolyU launched a two-year entry level Master in Occupational Therapy (MOT) programme in January 2012 on a self-financing basis.

To encourage graduates of MOT programme to join the welfare sector, SWD has implemented a Training Sponsorship Scheme to provide funding support for NGOs to offer tuition fee sponsorship to students whom they recruited. Students obtaining the sponsorship have to work for the NGOs concerned for not less than two years after graduation. The first and second cohorts of about 30 students graduated in 2014 and 2016 respectively. PolyU co-operated with SWD again to implement the third batch of MOT programme in 2016/17, providing a capacity of about 24 places.

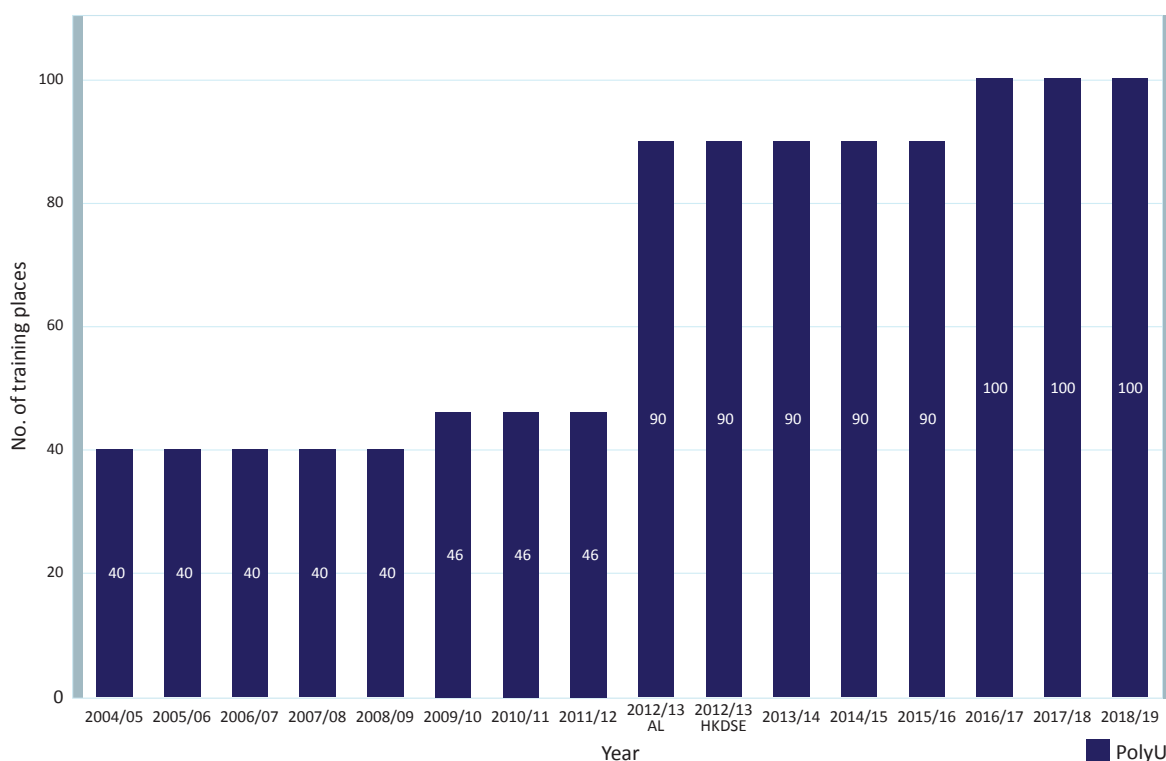
1.3.56 TWC has started to operate a self-financing programme in occupational therapy, providing about 50 training places in

the 2013/14 academic year. The programme is undergoing accreditation by SMP Council. The first cohort of students will graduate in 2017.

Non-locally trained OTs

1.3.57 Non-locally trained OTs should meet the prescribed standards set by OTs Board before they can register to practise in Hong Kong. Application for registration is handled on individual merits. OTs Board may grant direct registration for holders of recognised qualifications or ask those of other qualifications to undergo a registration examination.

Figure 1.25 Publicly-funded degree places in occupational therapy



Note due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

No. of newly registered OTs (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.58 The annual average number of newly registered OTs with local qualifications in 2012

- 2016 was 73 (74%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 26 (26%).



PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered PTs	2 956
PT to population ratio	1 : 2 495
Proportion of public and private practice	59% : 41%

Male to female ratio	46%(Male); 54%(Female)
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Median age	37
Age distribution	
20-29	23.3%
30-39	36.1%
40-49	25.2%
50-59	13.2%
≥60	2.2%

The PT profession is a relatively young profession.

Regulatory body	SMP Council Physiotherapists Board (PTs Board)
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Training of PTs	PolyU
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PolyU is the only institution providing PT training in HK.

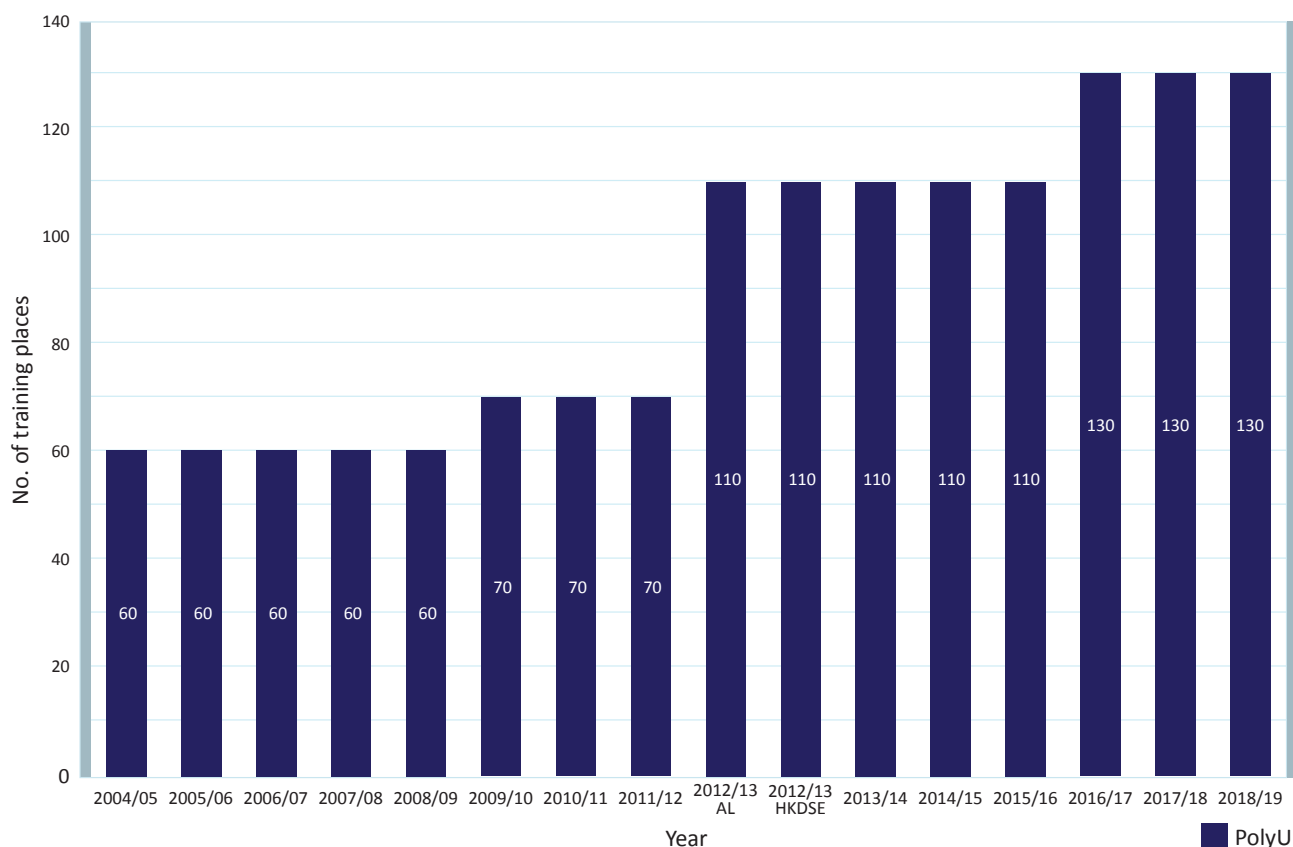
1.3.59 As at end 2016, there were 2 956 PTs in Hong Kong. A total of 59% of PTs worked in the public sector. The median age was 37. About 54% of registered PTs were female and 46% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 57% and 43% respectively. People wishing to become PTs must register with PTs Board in order to practise in Hong Kong.

1.3.60 PolyU is the only institution offering publicly-funded degree programme in the field of physiotherapy, providing 130 training places in 2016/17. Similar to occupational therapy, PolyU launched a two-year entry level Master in Physiotherapy (MPT) programme in January 2012 on a self-financing basis. To encourage graduates of MPT programme to join the welfare sector, SWD provides funding support for NGOs to offer tuition fee sponsorship to students whom they recruited. The first and second cohorts of about 30 students graduated in 2014 and 2016 respectively. Similar to MOT programme, PolyU co-operated with SWD again to implement the third batch of MPT programme in 2016/17, providing a capacity of about 48 places.

Non-locally trained PTs

1.3.61 Non-locally trained graduates must meet the prescribed standards set by PTs Board before they can register to practise in Hong Kong. Application for registration is handled on individual merits. PTs Board may grant direct registration for holders of recognised qualifications or ask those of other qualifications to undergo a registration examination.

Figure 1.26 Publicly-funded degree places in physiotherapy



Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

No. of newly registered PTs (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.62 The annual average number of newly registered PTs with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 96 (71%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 39 (29%).



MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered MLTs	3 443
MLT to population ratio	1 : 2 142
Proportion of public and private practice	64% : 36%
Male to female ratio	46%(Male); 54%(Female)

Median age	36
Age distribution	
20-29	24.6%
30-39	40.5%
40-49	27.8%
50-59	5.4%
≥60	1.7%
* Based on information from 2 224 registered MLTs (around 65% of total number of registrants) whose date of birth information is available.	

The MLT profession is a relatively young profession.

Regulatory body	SMP Council Medical Laboratory Technologists Board (MLTs Board)
Training of MLTs	PolyU TWC HKU SPACE

TWC

TWC has started to operate a self-financing programme in medical laboratory science, providing about 20 training places in the 2012/13 academic year. The programme is accredited by SMP Council in August 2016 and the first cohort of students graduated in the same year.

SSSDP

Considering that there is a sustained demand for MLTs in HK and the programme of TWC has obtained professional accreditation from SMP Council, the Government has decided to subsidise 20 training places of the medical laboratory science programme operated by TWC under SSSDP for the 2017/18 cohort.

1.3.63 As at end 2016, there were 3 443 MLTs in Hong Kong. A total of 64% of MLTs worked in the public sector. The median age was 36. About 54% of registered MLTs were female and 46% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 53% and 47% respectively. People wishing to become MLTs must register with MLTs Board in order to practise in Hong Kong.

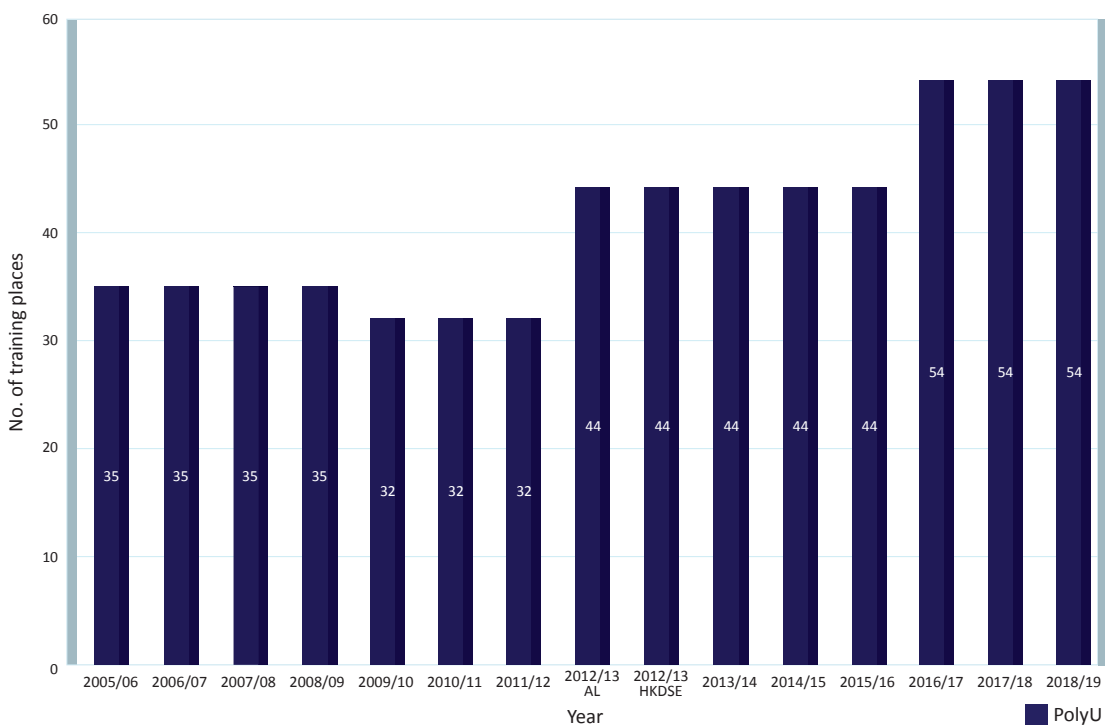
1.3.64 PolyU is the only institution offering publicly-funded degree programme in the field of medical laboratory science, providing 54 training places in the 2016/17 academic year. In addition to the UGC-funded training places offered by PolyU, HKU SPACE runs a higher certificate course in medical laboratory science, providing about 70 training places on

an alternate-year basis. TWC has also started to operate a self-financing programme in medical laboratory science, providing about 20 training places in the 2012/13 academic year. The programme is accredited by SMP Council in August 2016. The first cohort of students graduated in 2016. Considering that there is an increasing demand for MLTs in both public and private sector in Hong Kong and the programme of TWC has obtained professional accreditation from SMP Council, the Government has decided to subsidised 20 training places of the medical laboratory science programme operated by TWC under SSSDP in the 2017/18 academic year.

Non-locally trained MLTs

1.3.65 Non-locally trained graduates must meet the prescribed standards set by MLTs Board before they can register to practise in Hong Kong. Eligibility is assessed on individual merits. MLTs Board may grant direct registration for holders of recognised qualifications or ask those of other qualifications to undergo a registration examination.

Figure 1.27 Publicly-funded degree places in medical laboratory science



Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

No. of newly registered MLTs (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.66 The annual average number of newly registered MLTs with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 99 (77%), while the average

number of those with non-local qualifications was 29 (23%).



OPTOMETRISTS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered optometrists	2 180
Optometrist to population ratio	1 : 3 383
Proportion of public and private practice	9% : 91%

The vast majority of optometrists worked in the private sector.

Male to female ratio	76%(Male); 24%(Female)
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Median age	50
Age distribution	
20-29	10.4%
30-39	15.0%
40-49	24.0%
50-59	32.4%
≥ 60	18.2%

Regulatory body	SMP Council Optometrists Board
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Training of optometrists	PolyU
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PolyU is the only institution providing optometry training in HK.

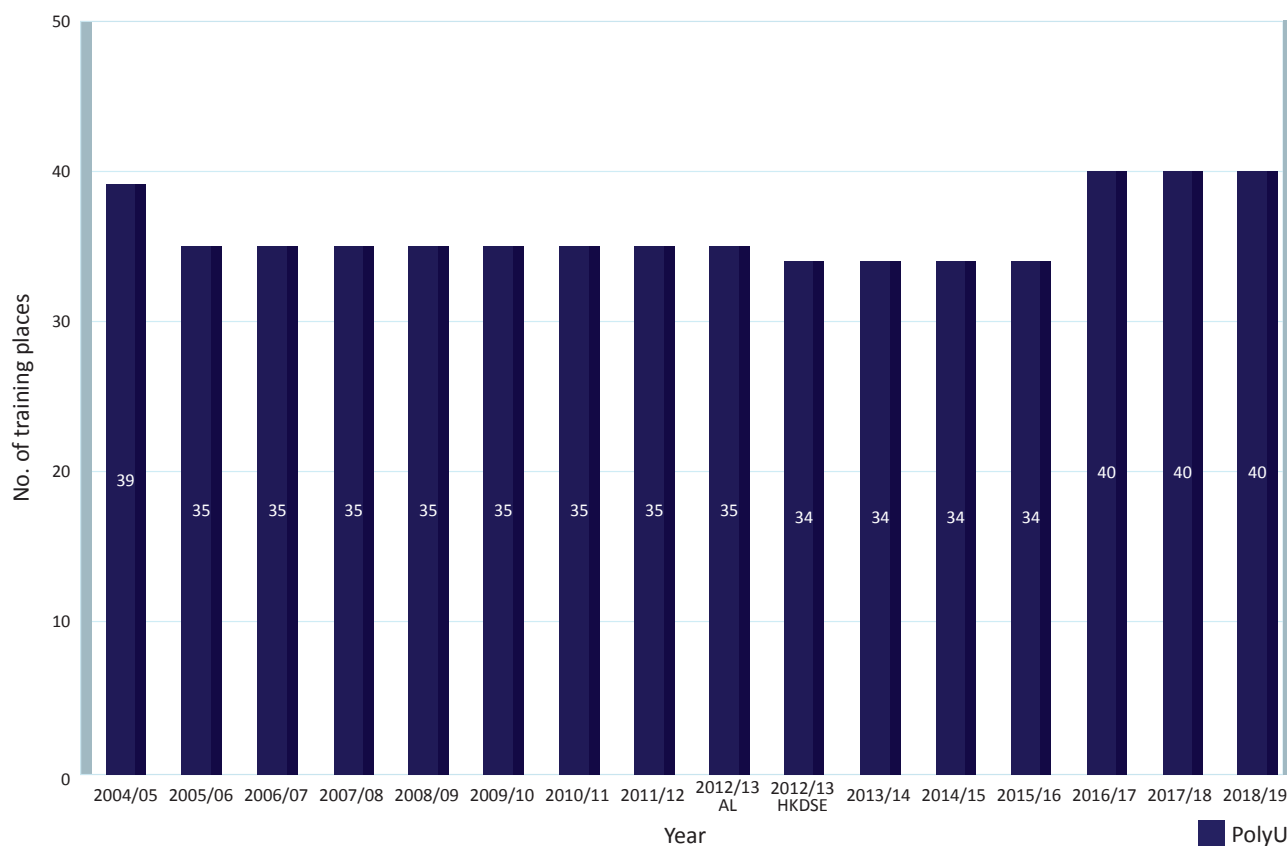
1.3.67 As at end 2016, there were 2 180 optometrists in Hong Kong. More than 90% of optometrists worked in the private sector. The median age was 50. About 24% of registered optometrists were female and 76% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 19% and 81% respectively.

1.3.68 PolyU is the only institution offering publicly-funded degree programme in the field of optometry, providing 40 training places in 2016/17. People wishing to become optometrists must register with the Optometrists Board in order to practise in Hong Kong.

Non-locally trained optometrists

1.3.69 Non-locally trained graduates must meet the prescribed standards set by the Optometrists Board before they can register to practise in Hong Kong. Application for registration is handled on individual merits. The Optometrists Board may grant direct registration for holders of recognised qualifications. For holders of other qualifications, their application will be assessed on individual merits on the basis that the qualifications should be comparable to the local bachelor degree conferred by PolyU.

Figure 1.28 Publicly-funded degree places in optometry



Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

No. of newly registered optometrists (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.70 The annual average number of newly registered optometrists with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 37 (89%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 4 (11%).



RADIOGRAPHERS KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered radiographers	2 209
Registered radiographers (Category : Diagnostic)	1 842
Registered radiographers (Category : Therapeutic)	367

Radiographer to population ratio	1 : 3 339
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Proportion of public and private practice (Category : Diagnostic)	57% : 43%
(Category : Therapeutic)	62% : 38%

Male to female ratio	55%(Male); 45%(Female)
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Median age	41
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Age distribution	
20-29	22.5%
30-39	23.8%
40-49	26.7%
50-59	20.4%
≥60	6.6%

Regulatory body	SMP Council Radiographers Board
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Training of radiographers	PolyU TWC
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TWC

In addition to PolyU, TWC has started to operate a self-financing programme in radiation therapy, providing about 15 training places in the 2012/13 academic year. In 2016, the programme was accredited by SMP Council with the first cohort of students graduated in the same year.

SSSDP

Considering that there is a sustained demand for radiographers in HK and the programme of TWC has obtained professional accreditation from SMP Council, the Government has decided to subsidise 12 training places of the radiation therapy programme operated by TWC under SSSDP for the 2017/18 cohort.

1.3.71 As at end 2016, there were 2 209 radiographers in Hong Kong, with 1 842 and 367 in diagnostic and therapeutic streams respectively. About 60% of radiographers worked in the Government and HA. The median age was 41. About 45% of registered radiographers were female and 55% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 48% and 52% respectively. People wishing to become radiographers must register with the Radiographers Board in order to practise in Hong Kong.

1.3.72 PolyU is the only institution offering publicly-funded degree programme in the field of radiography, providing 110 training places in the 2016/17 academic year. In addition to PolyU, TWC has started to operate a self-financing

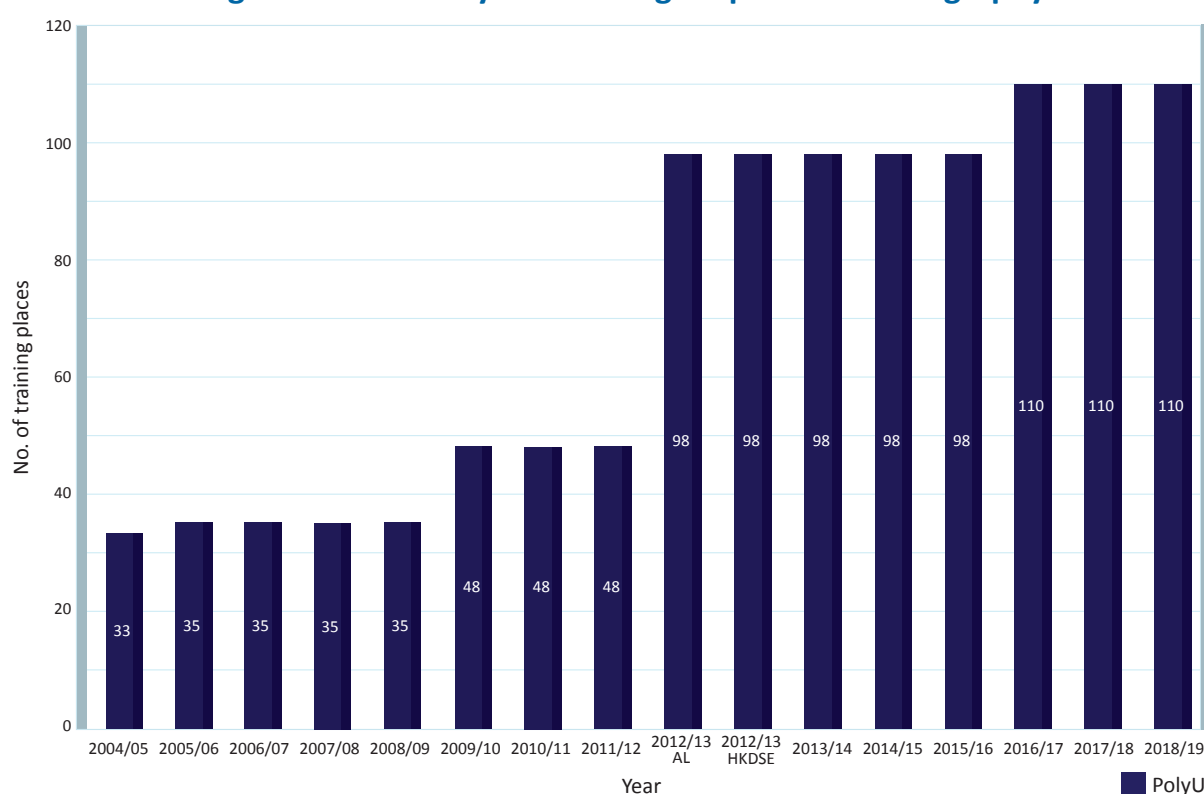
programme in radiation therapy, providing about 15 training places in the 2012/13 academic year. In 2016, the programme was accredited by SMP Council with the first cohort of students graduated in the same year. Considering that there is a strong demand for radiographers in Hong Kong and the programme of TWC has obtained professional accreditation from SMP Council, the Government has decided to subsidise 12 training places of the radiation therapy programme operated by TWC under SSSDP in the 2017/18 academic year.

Non-locally trained radiographers

1.3.73 Non-locally trained radiographers must meet the prescribed standards set by the Radiographers Board before they can register to practise in Hong Kong. Application for registration is handled on individual merits. The Radiographers Board may grant direct registration for holders of recognised qualifications. For applicants in the diagnostic stream not meeting the direct registration criteria, the Radiographers Board may ask them to undergo a registration examination¹².

¹² There is no registration examination held for the Therapeutic Stream.

Figure 1.29 Publicly-funded degree places in radiography



Note : Due to the change in academic structure, UGC-funded institutions admitted two cohorts of students under the old and new academic structures in the 2012/13 academic year.

No. of newly registered radiographers (locally and non-locally trained)

1.3.74 The annual average number of newly

registered radiographers with local qualifications in 2012 - 2016 was 72 (74%), while the average number of those with non-local qualifications was 26 (26%).



CHIROPRACTORS

KEY FACTS (as at end 2016)

Registered chiropractors	209
Chiropractors to population ratio	1 : 35 287
Proportion of public and private practice	0% : 100%

All registered chiropractors are engaged in the private sector.

Male to female ratio	70%(Male); 30%(Female)
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Median age	42
Age distribution	
20-29	10.0%
30-39	35.4%
40-49	23.0%
50-59	15.8%
≥ 60	15.8%

Regulatory body	Chiropractors Council
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Training of chiropractors	Not available in HK
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1.3.75 As at end 2016, there were 209 chiropractors in Hong Kong. All of them were engaged in the private sector. The median age was 42. About 30% of registered chiropractors were female and 70% were male. In 2007, the female and male ratio was 24% and 76% respectively.

1.3.76 There is no chiropractic education in Hong Kong. To practise as a chiropractor in Hong Kong, one has to fulfill the requirements for registration prescribed by the Chiropractors Council including holding a recognised chiropractic qualification. Registered chiropractors in Hong Kong mainly hold qualifications granted in the US, Australia, Canada and Europe.

Healthcare professions not subject to statutory registration

1.3.77 The healthcare sector engages a considerable number of professionals coming from a wide range of disciplines. In addition to the 13 statutorily registered healthcare professions, there are other healthcare professions that are not subject to statutory registration including audiologists, audiology technicians, chiropodists/podiatrists, clinical psychologists, dental surgery assistants, dental technicians/technologists, dental therapists, dietitians, dispensers, educational psychologists, mould laboratory technicians, orthoptists, prosthetists/orthotists, scientific officers (medical) and speech therapists¹³ etc.

1.3.78 At present, the regulation of most healthcare professions which are not subject to statutory registration in Hong Kong has been achieved through voluntary society-based registration. Under society-based registration,

a professional body administers a registration system and promulgates a list of its members so that members of the public can make reference when choosing certain type of healthcare services. The professional bodies can also formulate relevant codes of practice to strengthen self-regulation and encourage their members to pursue continuing professional development, obtain qualifications as well as enhance their professional competency. The professional bodies can also develop quality assurance and disciplinary mechanisms to ensure that all their members are qualified healthcare professionals.

¹³ According to Section 20I of Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542), the 15 types of health professionals who are currently not subject to statutory registration under the health services functional constituency.