

# PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD OF HONG KONG

## Explanatory Notes on Registration as a Pharmacist

### I. GENERAL

1.1 Subject to the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Cap. 138, any person who intends to practise as a pharmacist in Hong Kong should first be registered with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. Applications for registration should be made in writing to the Board at the address specified in Part VIII of these notes.

1.2 In order to be eligible for registration, an applicant is required to satisfy the Board as to his/her identity and good character, and to meet the qualification, examination and training requirements detailed below.

### II. QUALIFICATION

2.1 An applicant must meet one of the following two criteria:

- (a) he/she holds a pharmacy degree awarded by the University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong after the completion of a full time course of study at that university; or
- (b) non-local applicants must have completed his/her tertiary education of not less than three full-time academic years, or equivalent, in pharmacy, and be registered or be professionally qualified to be registered as a pharmacist, normally in the country in which he/she has completed that education.

### III. EXAMINATION

3.1 An applicant must pass the Board's written examinations in three subjects, namely, Pharmacy Legislation in Hong Kong, Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacology, all of which are set in English. For details on these examinations, please refer to Part VI of these notes.

3.2 At the discretion of the Board, applicants who hold a pharmacy degree awarded by the University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong may be exempted from the requirement of passing the Board's examinations.

### IV. TRAINING

4.1 Applicants who hold a pharmacy degree awarded by the University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong after the completion of a full time course of study at the university are required to undergo Board-approved training in Hong Kong for an appropriate period determined by the Board, which will normally be one year, inclusive of a holiday entitlement of not more than 4 weeks.

4.2 Applicants other than those referred to 4.1 should have had relevant pre-registration training and/or post-registration experience for an aggregate period of not less than one year (inclusive of a holiday entitlement of not more than 4 weeks) in the country in which he/she has completed his/her studies in pharmacy or in another country.

4.3 The one-year period of pre-registration training and/or post-registration experience should involve direct patient care services (i.e., community pharmacy or hospital pharmacy) for an aggregate period of not less than 6 months.

4.4 At the discretion of the Board, an applicant who has had less than one year's training and experience may be permitted to take the Board's examinations and, upon passing all parts thereof, to submit an application for registration together with any further documentation to the Board in support of his/her aggregate period of training and experience gained by this time. If his/her aggregate training and practical experience still falls short of the Board's registration requirements, he/she will be required to undergo Board-approved training for a specified period in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

4.5 At the discretion of the Board, an applicant who has had less than 6 months' training and experience in settings involving direct patient care services may be permitted to take the Board's examinations and, upon passing all parts thereof, to submit an application for registration together with any further documentation to the Board in support of his/her aggregate period of training and experience gained in settings involving direct patient care services by this time. If his/her aggregate training and practical experience still falls short of the Board's requirements, he/she will be required to undergo Board-approved training in settings involving direct patient care services for a specified period in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

## **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION**

5.1 In applying for registration, all applicants have to produce the original (with photocopies) or notarised copies of the following supporting documents, together with four passport size photographs (with the applicant's name printed at the back):

- (a) certificate of the degree in pharmacy;
- (b) transcript of record of study in pharmacy;
- (c) testimonial of practical experience in pharmacy [*please also see paragraph 4.2 above for the Board's requirements*];
- (d) a letter from a person of good standing vouching for identity and good character; and
- (e) proofs of identity (Hong Kong identity card or passport).

5.2 In addition, applicants who do not hold a pharmacy degree awarded by the University of Hong Kong or the Chinese University of Hong Kong are required to produce the original (with photocopies) or notarised copies of the following supporting documents:

- (a) certificate of registration as pharmacist issued by the Board of Pharmacy where registered; or the notification of registration number issued by the General Pharmaceutical Council and the electronic printout of the entry of pharmacist registration with the same registration number shown in the notification of registration number issued by the General Pharmaceutical Council for those pharmacists registered in the United Kingdom;
- (b) an up-to-date letter of good standing issued by the Board of Pharmacy where registered; and
- (c) current pharmacist practising licence, if any.

## VI. REGISTRATION EXAMINATIONS

6.1 The Pharmacy and Poisons Board conducts its examinations twice a year, normally in June and December. New entrance to the June examinations closes on *28 February*, and for the December examinations, *31 August*. For applications to re-sit the Board's registration examinations, the deadlines are *31 March* and *30 September* for the June and December Examinations respectively. Applications received after the respective closing dates shall be considered for the next registration examinations to be conducted by the Board. Application forms are obtainable from the Secretariat, Pharmacy and Poisons Board at 46/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

### (A) Fees for Examinations

6.2 Applicants accepted for the registration examinations will be informed in writing on the details of the examination arrangements. As at 2 March 2001, the fee for the examination is HK\$1,110\* for each subject. Examination fees should be paid in cheque drawn in favour of "*The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*". Cheques drawn in foreign currencies will not be accepted. Payment made will normally not be refundable.

### (B) Validity of Examination Results

6.3 A candidate who passes in any one paper will be required to re-sit that paper if he/she fails to pass the other two papers within three years.

### (C) Scope of Examinations

#### 6.4 Pharmacy Legislation in Hong Kong

Usually consists of five to six long questions to be answered in three hours. Topics include up-to-date versions of the following ordinances and their subsidiary legislations :

- (a) Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Cap. 138 (including the main ordinance and the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations; Poisons List Regulations; Pharmacy and Poisons (Pharmacy and Poisons Appeal Tribunal) Regulations; and Pharmacists (Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations)
- (b) Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, Cap. 134 (including the main ordinance and the Dangerous Drugs Regulations)
- (c) Antibiotics Ordinance, Cap. 137 (including the main ordinance and the Antibiotics Regulations)
- (d) Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance, Cap. 231
- (e) Import and Export (General) Regulations, Cap. 60A (*except those parts related solely to textiles or rough diamonds*)

Applicants may purchase the above publications by:

- (a) calling the Publication Sales Section of the Information Services Department at 2537 1910
- (b) visiting the online Government Bookstore at <http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/government/publication/publication/bookstore.htm>
- (c) placing order with the Information Services Department by e-mail at <http://www.isd.gov.hk/eng/bookorder.htm>

## 6.5 Pharmacy Practice

Usually consists of essay questions, multiple-choice questions and some calculation problems, to be answered in three hours. The following areas shall be covered :

- (a) Pharmaceutical calculations (percentages, dilution, concentrations, aliquots, alligation and posology)
- (b) Pharmaceutical dosage forms (applications, methods of use and properties)
- (c) Preparation of pharmaceutical dosage forms (methods of preparation, basic formulation, labelling and packaging)
- (d) Sterilization practices (the official methods and their applications, conditions and equipment required)
- (e) Radiopharmacy (principles and application)
- (f) Handling of cytotoxic agents (potential hazards and precautions)
- (g) Medical gases (types and uses)

- (h) Aseptic dispensing (clean room design and operation, aseptic technique and its application)
- (i) Practical pharmacokinetics (concept, application and calculation)
- (j) General pharmacy practice (patient counselling, responding to symptoms, counter prescribing of over-the-counter medications, etc.)

Reference materials for the examination include any relevant textbooks in pharmacy practice together with the official pharmacopoeias.

## 6.6 Pharmacology

The examination will consist of mainly short questions to be answered in three hours based on a syllabus which includes but not limited to the following :

- (a) General principles of pharmacology
  - Drug receptors and pharmacodynamics
  - Pharmacokinetics: Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism and Excretion
  - Basic and clinical evaluation of new drugs
  - Individual variation and drug interaction
- (b) Autonomic nervous system
  - Chemical transmission and the autonomic nervous system
  - Cholinergic transmission and cholinceptor-blocking and activating agents
  - Adrenergic transmission and adrenoceptor-blocking and activating agents
- (c) Cardiovascular system
  - Antihypertensive agents
  - Vasodilators and the treatment of angina pectoris
  - Drugs used in congestive heart failure
  - Agents used in cardiac arrhythmias
  - Treatment of dyslipidaemias
  - Diuretics and drugs affecting renal excretion
- (d) Central nervous system
  - Sedatives, hypnotics and anxiolytics
  - Antiepileptic drugs
  - General and local anaesthetics
  - Skeletal muscle relaxants
  - Pharmacologic management of Parkinsonism and other movement disorders
  - Antipsychotic agents
  - Antidepressant agents
  - Drugs of abuse

- (e) Chemotherapeutic agents
  - Antibacterial agents
  - Antiviral agents
  - Antifungal agents
  - Antiprotozoal and anthelmintic agents
  - Disinfectants and antiseptics
  - Cancer chemotherapy and immunosuppression
- (f) Agents used in the treatment of diseases of the blood
  - Agents used in anaemias
  - Drugs used in disorders of coagulation
- (g) Arthritis and anti-inflammatory agents
  - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, non-opioid analgesics, drugs used to treat gout
- (h) Endocrine drugs
  - Hypothalamic and pituitary hormones, sex hormones, contraception
  - Adrenal corticosteroids, antagonists, corticotrophin
  - Diabetes mellitus, insulin, oral antidiabetic agents
  - Thyroid and antithyroid drugs
  - Agents that affect bone mineral homeostasis
- (i) Gastro-intestinal system
  - Drugs for peptic ulcers
  - Antiemetic and prokinetic drugs
  - Drugs used in constipation, diarrhoea and abnormal gut motility
  - Drug-induced liver injury and changes in drug handling in liver diseases, treatment of liver diseases
- (j) Respiratory tract
  - Drugs used in the management of asthma
  - Cough suppressants, antihistamines, mucolytics and expectorants
- (k) Skin
  - Transdermal drug absorption and dermal adverse drug reactions
  - Antipruritics, adrenocortical steroids
  - Sunscreen and sunburn
  - Treatment of specific skin disorders
- (l) Toxicology
  - Management of the poisoned patient
  - Chelators and heavy metal intoxication and other antidotes
- (m) Miscellaneous
  - Nutrition
  - Vaccine and immunoglobulins

#### (D) Request for Reviewing Examination Result

6.7 Candidates may request for reviewing their examination results. The deadline for submission of such requests is one month after the release of examination results. Upon receiving such requests, the Board will refer the requests to relevant Examiners who will review the examination results. Candidates will be informed in writing of the results of the review in about three weeks' time upon receipt of their requests for review. Candidates will not be permitted to have access to the answer scripts.

### **VII. CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND PRACTISING CERTIFICATE**

7.1 An applicant who has passed the registration examinations and is accepted for registration is required to obtain a certificate of registration from the Board before his/her name is added to the Register of Pharmacists. In addition, he/she has to apply for an annual practising certificate at the beginning of each year from the Board in order that he/she may practise in Hong Kong. The certificate of registration is issued at a charge of HK\$790\*, and the annual practising certificate at HK\$520\*.

### **VIII. Enquiries**

8.1 Enquiries concerning registration and the Board's examinations should be addressed to the Secretariat, Pharmacy and Poisons Board at 46/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Telephone number : (852) 2527 8432

Facsimile number : (852) 2865 5540

*\*Note : subject to revision*

The Secretariat,  
Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong

March 2025