

# **Plenary Session**

## **Report of Pre-Pharmacy Council Task Force**

29 March 2015

Moderator: Ms S.C. Chiang

# Rundown

**Historical Background – Mrs Mary Cheng**

**Current functions of the PPB – Ms. SC Chiang**

**Potential functions of the Pharmacy Council – William Chui**

**Panel Views – Invited representatives from sectors**

**Open Discussion --- Thinking OUTSIDE the box**

**Wrap-up – The Next Milestone in Hong Kong Pharmacy**

# Pre-Pharmacy Council Task Force

Chairperson: Vincent H.L. Lee

## Members:

May Lam	Beverley Tam
Celeste Ewig	Max Mak
Gloria Hung	Victoria Chan
Markus Lung	Mary Cheng
Louisa Poon	Iris Chang
William Yiu	William Chui
Michael Yim	Ritchie Kwok
Philip Chiu	Peter Leung
Margaret Lau	Michael Ling
Kenneth Leung	Sau Chu Chiang
Chris Lee	Keary Zhou

# Meetings of Pre-Pharmacy Council Task Force

**20 Nov 2014**

- Review local and overseas examples of professional councils
- Potential functions of the Pharmacy Council
- Contents to be discussed at the HKPC 2015 plenary session

**17 Dec 2014**

- Recap of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and objectives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting
- Framework of the future Pharmacy Council

**27 Jan 2015**

- HKPC 2015 Plenary logistics/rundown

# **Historical Background**

Mrs. Mary Cheng


# Introduction

The concept of a pharmacy council has been discussed from time to time for more than three decades.


Period	Event
1981/82	Medicines Ordinance, Pharmacists Registration Ordinance and Poisons Ordinance drafted
1987/88	The 3 drafts approved by PPB and sent out for consultation with no action from then PPB Secretary
1996/97	Project revived. Combined Medicines & Poisons Ordinance and Pharmacists Registration Ordinance.
1998	Final draft submitted to Health, Welfare , and Food Bureau by the Secretary. Project was derailed by a competing ordinance to dissolve the Urban Council

# Events in 2010's


In the recent Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2014 exercise, several leaders in Pharmacy voiced the need to form a Pharmacy Council in Hong Kong under law:




to regulate and oversee the development of the Pharmacy Profession;



to issue codes of conduct or codes of practice of pharmacists;



to look into registration of pharmacists and continuing education requirements of pharmacists and



to take disciplinary action against misconduct by pharmacists

## Parallel Actions by the Food and Health Bureau

- In May 2012, the Bureau set up a steering committee to conduct a strategic review on healthcare manpower planning and professional development.
- A pharmacist subgroup was formed to collect views from pharmacists.


- The Univ. of Hong Kong was commissioned to conduct a projection on the manpower needs and demand for healthcare professionals.
- The Chinese Univ. of HK was commissioned to study the regulatory framework of the healthcare professionals in other countries.



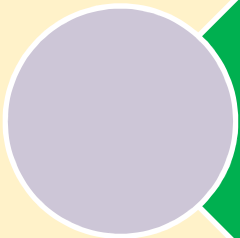
# Key Findings



**A Pharmacy Council exists in many advanced countries for the regulation and disciplinary action of pharmacists. Legislative change is needed to reform structures.**



**A Pharmacy Council was favored by most pharmacists on the subgroup to serve as an advocate for the re-branding of the profession to facilitate its further development.**



**With enhanced credibility, the pharmacy profession will be in a better position to serve the public with advanced care in collaboration with doctors and nurses.**

# **Current functions of Pharmacy and Poisons Board**

Ms. Sau-chu Chiang

# Functions

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board of Hong Kong (the Board) is established under section 3 of the [Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance \(Cap. 138, Laws of Hong Kong\)](#) to carry out functions in accordance with the provisions of the said Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation including -

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| (a) | registration of pharmacists, including the prescription of training required for registration, the organization of registration examinations and the issue of certificates of registration and annual practising certificates;   |
| (b) | discipline of pharmacists, through inquiry into their conduct by Disciplinary Committees appointed for the purpose;  |
| (c) | licensing and regulatory control of retail traders of pharmaceutical products (authorized sellers of poisons and listed sellers of poisons), conducting inspections and test purchases and initiating prosecution of offences and, for authorized sellers of poisons, inquiring into their conduct by Disciplinary Committees appointed for the purpose; |
| (d) | licensing and regulatory control of wholesale dealers, importers, exporters and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products;  |
| (e) | regulatory control of the selling, purchasing, compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical products; and  |
| (f) | registration and classification of pharmaceutical products.  |

# Membership

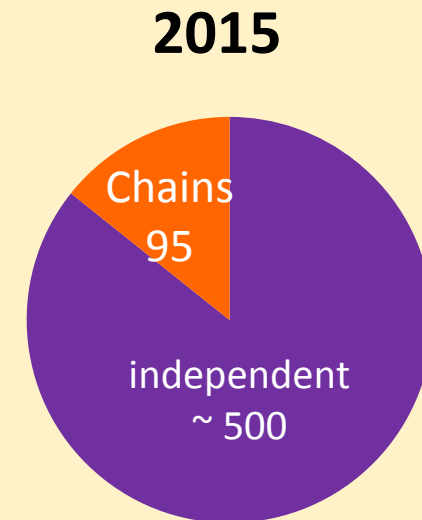
		Pharmacist (Y/N)	Nominated / appointed by
Chairman	Dr Constance CHAN, JP	N	HKSAR
Members	Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming	N	HKSAR
	Ms CHIANG Sau-chu	Y	HKPS
	Mr KWONG Yiu-sum, Benjamin	Y	HKPS
	Dr LAI Kit-lim, Cindy, JP	N	HKSAR
	Dr LAU Chau-ming, JP	N	HKSAR
	Prof. LEE Wing-yan, Vivian	Y	CUHK
	Mr WONG Ka-kin, Andy	Y	HKPS
	Professor WONG Chi-kei, Ian	Y	HKU
	Ms Linda WOO	Y	HKSAR
Legal Adviser	Miss CHAN Oi-lai, Michelle	N	HKSAR
Secretary	Miss Maggie CHOW	N	HKSAR

Committees of the Board	Scope
Pharmacy and Poisons (Listed Sellers of the Poisons) Committee	Premise & conduct of business
Pharmacy and Poisons (Wholesale Licenses) Committee	
Pharmacy and Poisons (Manufacturers Licensing) Committee	
Pharmacy and Poisons (Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Substances: Certification of Clinical Trial/Medicinal Test) Committee	Medicines
Poisons Committee	
Examination Committee	Registration & qualification
Pharmacy Internship Training Committee	

# Authorized Sellers of Poisons

Year	Number of ASPs**
2001	375
2010	546
2011	557
2012	570
2013	
2015	604

increase by 60% over 15 years



# # Pharmacists on the Register\*\*

Year	Number	Net Increase
2010	1954	76
2011	2050	96
2012	2127	77
2013 (projected)	2186	59
2014 (projected)	2241	55

**Increase by 14% over 15 years**

\*\*Information from PPB Annual Report

# Distribution of pharmacists by employment

Place of Employment	#Pharmacists
Public Hospitals & SOPC/GOPC clinics	550
Private Hospitals & GP clinics	150
Department of Health	130
Community	600
Manufacturing	40
Multinationals	30
Research and Education	20
Wholesale, etc.	280

As of 2015, about 1800 actively practicing as pharmacists.



# Functioning of the Board – Personal views and experience

# **POTENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE FUTURE PHARMACY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

William C M CHUI

# Pertinent Developments at this Juncture



Strategic Review on Healthcare  
Manpower Planning &  
Professional Development –  
Pharmacists Sub-group



Working Group on  
Draft Code of Conduct for  
Registered Pharmacists

## **Why is There a Need for a Pharmacy Council?**

- The pharmacy profession in Hong Kong is gaining recognition for its distinct role in patient care central to a positive patient outcome.
- The establishment of a council is a public statement of a mature profession committed to set standards to regulate itself.
- The absence of a pharmacy council will perpetuate the control of the destiny of pharmacy by the medical profession.

# EXISTING COUNCILS/EQUIVALENT OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN HONG KONG



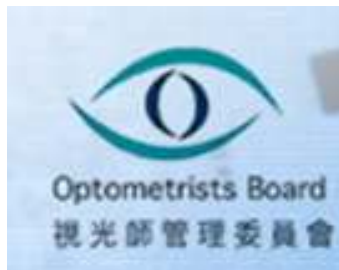
The Medical Council  
of Hong Kong



The Dental Council of  
Hong Kong



The Nursing Council  
of Hong Kong



Optometrists Board



Veterinary Surgeons  
Board of Hong Kong

# MISSION AND VISION

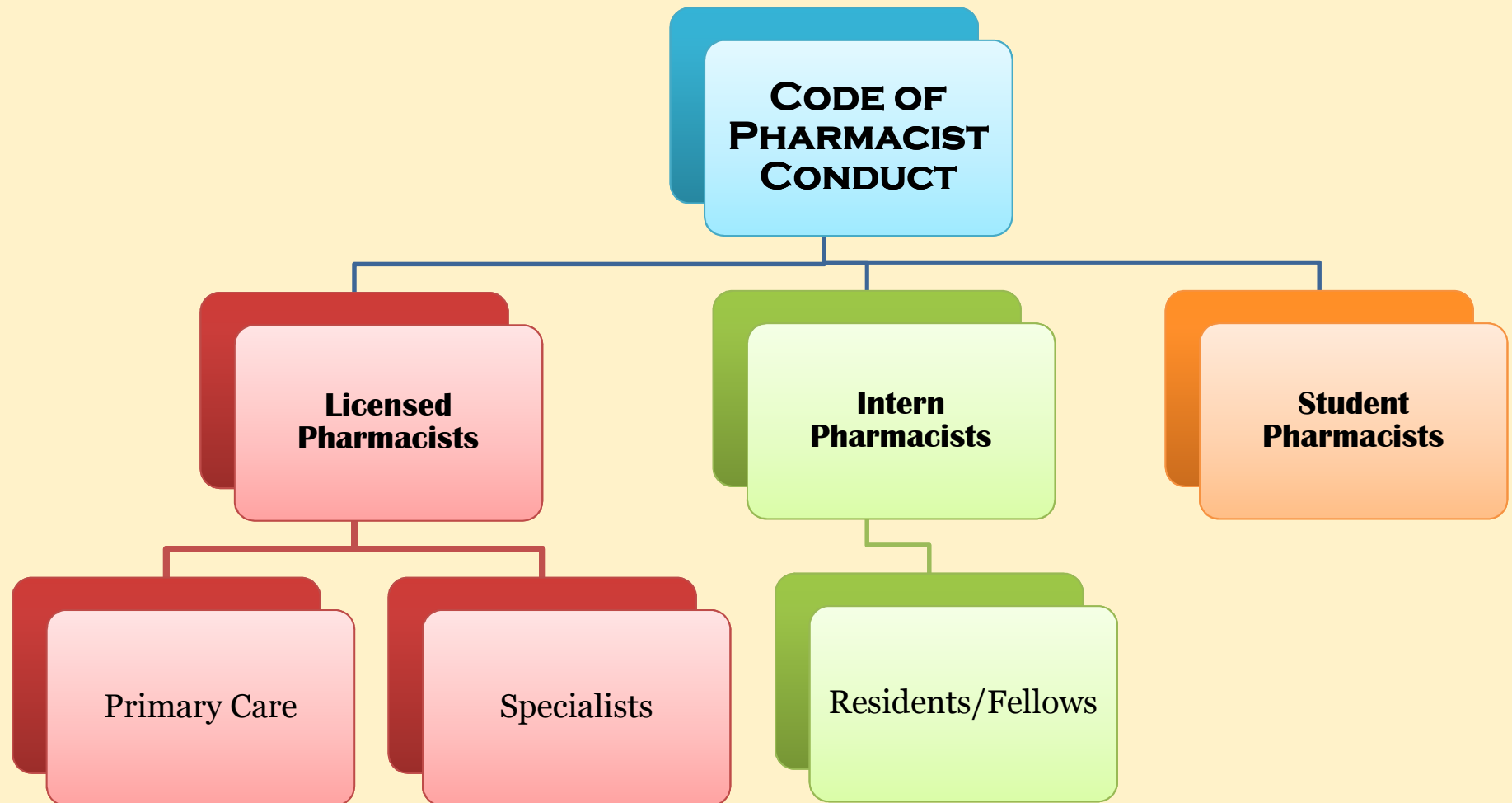
## Mission

To be an independent, statutory body dedicated to setting professional standards and building framework and pathways for innovative pharmacy service development, with the ultimate goal of improving patient therapeutic outcomes.

## Vision

To be a unified voice in advancing pharmacy practice and to be an advocate of safe, effective, and affordable medicine for the public in Hong Kong

# Constituents Served by the Pharmacy Council



# Functions of Pharmacy Council

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graph TD; A[Functions of Pharmacy Council] --> B[Core Functions]; A --> C[Operational Functions];
```

Core  
Functions

Operational  
Functions



## **FUNCTIONS OF PHARMACY COUNCIL**

### **Core functions**

1. Setting standards for safe and effective pharmacy practice
2. Accrediting Entry Pharmacy Degree program, internship training program, and continuing professional development programs.
3. Providing a platform for collaborating with other healthcare professionals.
4. Ensuring continued fitness of registrants.
5. Projecting manpower needs across sectors as part of strategic planning

## **FUNCTIONS OF PHARMACY COUNCIL**

### **Operational functions**

6. Conducting licensing examinations.

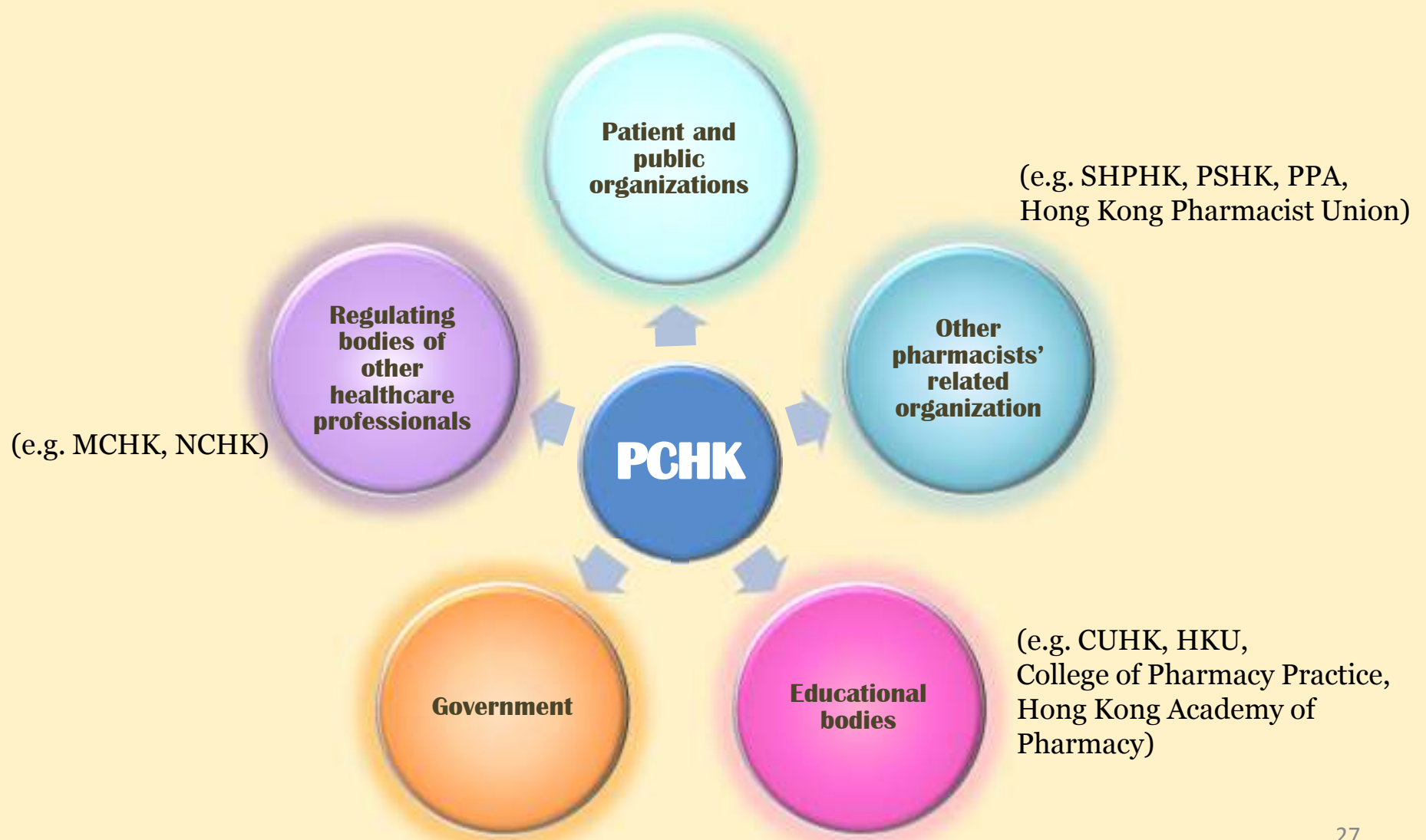
7. Registration and licensing.

8. Regulatory and disciplinary duties

9. Publishing or providing information:

- regulation of pharmacists, e.g., Code of Conduct
- guidance to registrants, employers and other persons concerned.

# RELATION WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND ACADEMY



# **SUBCOMMITTEES**



# COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS

## Composition

- Professionals
- Non-professionals

## Appointment

- Appointed by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong

## Terms of office

- To be discussed

## COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FUTURE PHARMACY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND THE PRESENT PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD (FUNCTIONS)

	PCHK	PPB
<b>Functions</b>		
Registration and licensing of pharmacists	✓	✓
Registration and Licensing of pharmacy interns	✓	X
Regulate and set standard of the internship training programme	✓	✓
Set standards and accredit <u>the followings</u> to ensure competence of pharmacists:		
• Bachelor of Pharmacy Program	✓	✓
• Internship training program	✓	✓
• Continuing professional development	✓	X
Set standards for the registration of specialist pharmacists and accredit programmes of specialties in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences	✓	X

## COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FUTURE PHARMACY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND THE PRESENT PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD (FUNCTIONS)

	PCHK	PPB
<b>Functions (continued)</b>		
Determine standards of Licensing Examinations and to be responsible for the conduct of such examinations	✓	✓
Ensure the continued fitness to practise of registrants	✓	X
Exercise the regulatory and disciplinary powers for the profession in order to maintain ethics and discipline in the profession	✓	✓
Publish or provide information about the regulation of pharmacists , by e.g. establishing a Code of Practice	✓	X (as at 12/2014)
Publish or provide information about the guidance to registrants, employers and other persons concerned in respect of the standards for the education, training, supervision and performance of non-registrants who are involved in the provision of pharmacy service	✓	X

## COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FUTURE PHARMACY COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND THE PRESENT PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD (FUNCTIONS)

	PCHK	PPB
<b>Functions (continued)</b>		
Responsible for licensing and regulatory control of retail traders of pharmaceutical products (ASP, LSP), conducting inspections and test purchases and initiating prosecution of offences and, for ASP, inquiring into their conduct by Disciplinary Committees appointed for the purpose	X	✓
Responsible for licensing and regulatory control of wholesale dealers, importers, exporters and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products	X	✓
Responsible for regulatory control of the selling, purchasing, compounding and dispensing of pharmaceutical products	✓	✓
Responsible for registration and classification of pharmaceutical products	X	✓
Project manpower needs across sectors	✓	X



## COMPARISON OF COUNCILS GOVERNING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN HONG KONG AND UK

	<b>The Nursing Council of Hong Kong (NCHK)</b>	<b>Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK)</b>	<b>General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC, UK)</b>
<b>Governed by law</b>	The Nurses Registration Ordinance, Cap.164	The Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161, Laws of Hong Kong	the Health and Social Care Act 2008, is the primary legislation which enabled the GPhC to be established via the Pharmacy Order 2010.
<b>Date of establishment</b>	3 May 1999	Year 1957	27 September 2010
<b>Mission and vision</b>	<p><u>Mission</u> To fulfil the statutory obligations as stipulated in the Nurses Registration Ordinance and to ensure the quality of nursing practice in Hong Kong meeting the rapidly changing health care needs of the society through the establishment of a registration system, provision of guidance and intervention with discipline.</p> <p><u>Vision</u> Not specified</p>	<p><u>Mission</u> Ensure justice, maintain professionalism and protect the public</p> <p><u>Vision</u> Not specified</p>	<p><u>Mission</u> - To protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of members of the public and in particular of those members of the public who use or need the services of registrants, or the services provided at a registered pharmacy, by ensuring that registrants, and those persons carrying on a retail pharmacy business at a registered pharmacy, adhere to such standards as the Council considers necessary for the safe and effective practice of pharmacy. - To protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the public by upholding standards and public trust in pharmacy.</p> <p><u>Vision</u> - Our vision is for pharmacy regulation to play its part in improving quality in pharmacy practice and ultimately health and well-being in England, Scotland and Wales.</p>

## COMPARISON OF COUNCILS GOVERNING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IN HONG KONG AND UK

	<b>The Nursing Council of Hong Kong (NCHK)</b>	<b>Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK)Kong</b>	<b>General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC, UK)</b>
<b>Functions of council</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be responsible for the registration or enrolment of any person qualified in any branch of nursing and desiring such registration or enrolment;</li> <li>2. To recognize courses of nursing training for the purpose of registration or enrolment under the Ordinance;</li> <li>3. To determine standards of Licensing Examinations for all branches of nursing under the Ordinance and to be responsible for the conduct of such examinations; and</li> <li>4. To exercise the regulatory and disciplinary powers for the profession under the Ordinance.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registration of medical practitioners</li> <li>2. The conduct of licentiate examination</li> <li>3. Maintenance of ethics, professional standards and discipline in the profession</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to establish and maintain a register of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and premises at which a retail pharmacy business is, or is to be, carried on</li> <li>2. to set and promote standards for the safe and effective practice of pharmacy at registered pharmacies</li> <li>3. to set requirements by reference to which registrants must demonstrate that their fitness to practise is not impaired</li> <li>4. to promote the safe and effective practice of pharmacy by registrants (including, for example, by reference to any code of conduct for, and ethics relating to, pharmacy);</li> <li>5. to set standards and requirements in respect of the education, training, acquisition of experience and continuing professional development that it is necessary for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to achieve in order to be entered in the Register or to receive an annotation in the Register and to maintain competence;</li> <li>6. to ensure the continued fitness to practise of registrants.</li> </ol> <p>The Council's duties in respect of publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council must from time to time publish or provide in such manner as it sees fit information about the regulation of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacies.</li> <li>• The Council may from time to time publish or provide in such manner as it sees fit guidance to registrants, employers and such other persons as it considers appropriate in respect of the standards for the education, training, supervision and performance of persons who are not registrants but who provide services in connection with those provided by registrants.</li> </ul>

# Rundown

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Potential functions of the Pharmacy Council – William Chui

Panel Views – Invited representatives from sectors

Open Discussion --- Thinking OUTSIDE the box

Wrap-up – The Next Milestone in Hong Kong Pharmacy

# Plenary Panelists

Sector	Representation
Manpower Review Committee	Mr. CHAN Wing Kai
Community Pharmacy	Ms. CHANG Iris, Mr. CHIU Philip
Hospital Pharmacy	Hon. Assoc. Professor CHUI William
Pharmaceutical Industry	Ms. CHIU Annette
Academia	Dr. LAM May, Professor LEE Vincent
Government	Mr. YIM Michael

Open for discussion...

# Conclusion

- The immediate goal of this task force is to round up a group of pertinent representatives from each field of practice in HK pharmacy to discuss and exchange ideas;
- Eventually prepared to make a passionate case to arouse the interest of the public, legislators, and government officials to support a bill leading to the establishment of a pharmacy council.