

# Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021

Food and Health Bureau  
May 2021

# Background

## ➤ Severe Shortage of Doctors

### ➤ Doctor Ratio

	Hong Kong	Korea	Singapore	Japan	United States	Canada	United Kingdom	Australia	Sweden
Doctors' Ratio (per 1000 population)	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.8	4.3

### ➤ Healthcare Manpower Projection 2020

Healthcare Professions \ Year	2020		2025		2030		2035		2040	
	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year	Base Year
	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017	2015	2017
Doctors	500	1 070	755	1 345	1 007	1 610	1 438	1 700	1 994	1 949

### ➤ Projected Manpower Shortage in Hospital Authority (HA) and Department of Health (DH) (From Healthcare Manpower Projection 2020)

	2020	2030	2040
HA	660	800	960
DH	49	51	51

# Background

## ➤ Long Waiting Time for Public Healthcare Service



Overall Specialist Out-patient Clinics: 31 weeks to 133 weeks

Specialty	Waiting Time
Medicine	133 weeks
Ophthalmology	123 weeks
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	119 weeks



**Department of Health**  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

### Child Assessment Service

Establishment	Strength	Vacancies	Vacancy Rate
25	15	10	40%

- Only 65% of new cases (vs target: 90%) can complete the assessment within 6 months



# Background

## ➤ Cannot be Solely Tackled by Increasing the Number of Locally-trained Doctors

### ➤ Substantial Increase of Healthcare Training Places

	2005/06 - 2008/09	2009/10- 2011/12	2012/13- 2015/16	2016/17- 2018/19	2019/20- 2021/22
Doctors	250	320	420	470	530

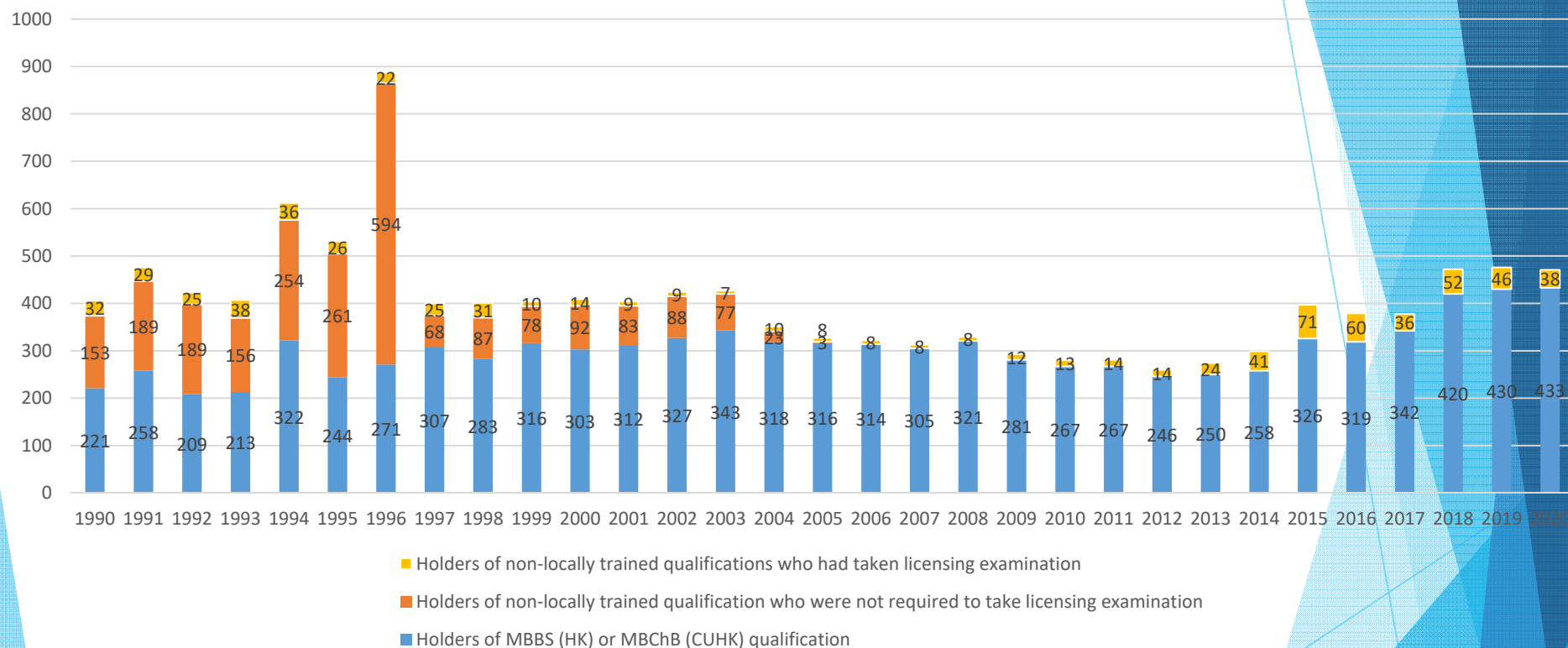
### ➤ Limitations

- Long lead time required for training local doctors
- Constraints in training capacity of the two medical schools

### ➤ We need to tap on non-local resources to increase the supply of doctors in Hong Kong

# Background

## ➤ Significant Drop in the Number of Non-locally Trained Doctors



Year	Locally trained	Non-locally trained
1991-2000	55%	45%
2001-2010	89.5%	10.5%
2011-2020	89.3%	10.7%

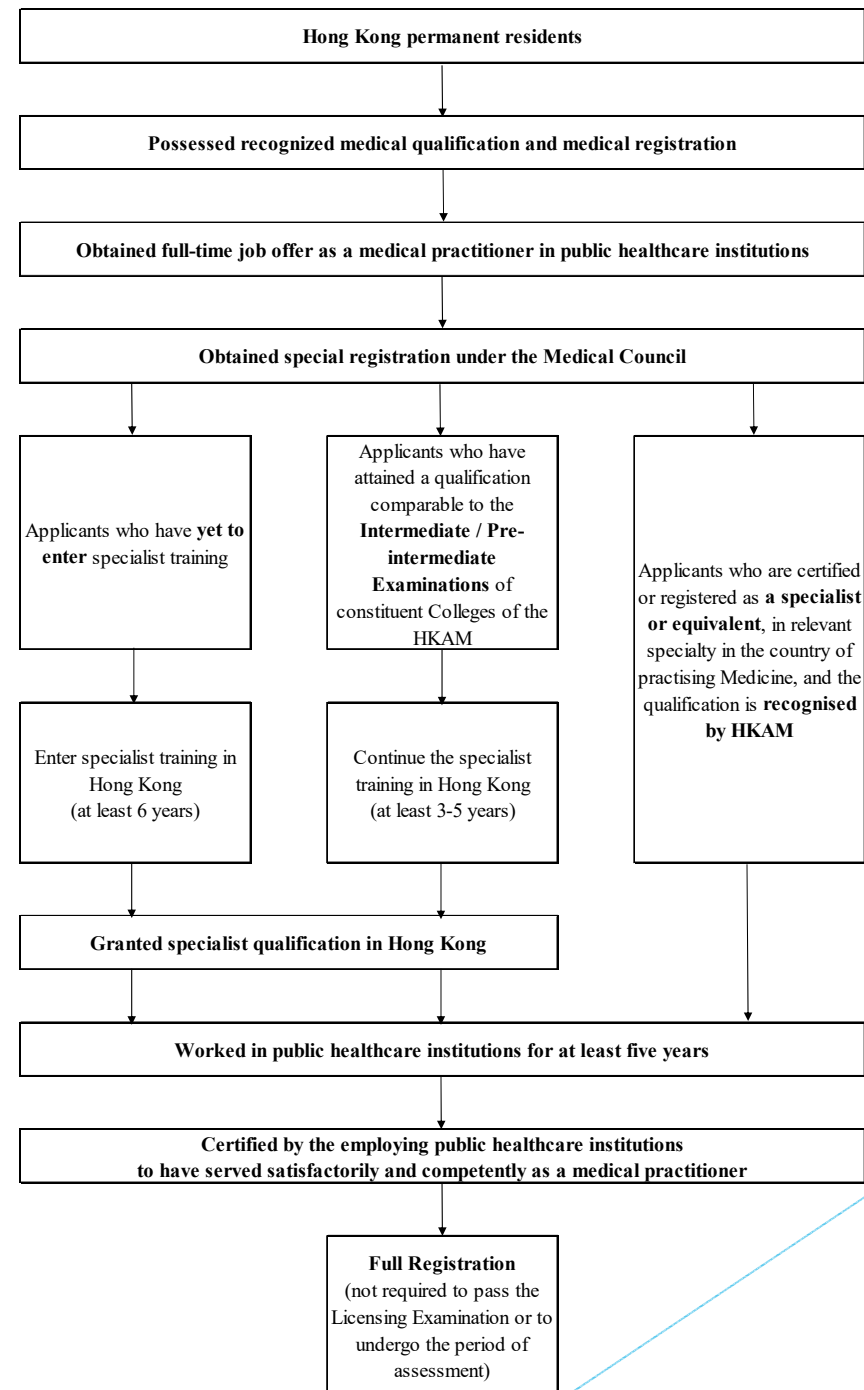
# Proposed New Pathway

➤ To obtain full registration in Hong Kong, a non-locally trained doctors has to fulfil the following criteria -

- ① he/she is a **Hong Kong permanent resident**;
- ② he/she holds **a recognised medical qualification** awarded by a non-local medical school and **possesses medical registration in any place where the non-local medical schools concerned are located**;
- ③ he/she has been engaged in **full-time employment** as a medical practitioner with special registration in any of the **public healthcare institutions** (i.e. HA, DH, medical schools of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and to continue to serve **at least five years after obtaining specialist qualification**; and
- ④ he/she is considered by the employing healthcare institutions to have **served satisfactorily and competently as a medical practitioner** during the five years (or more) period.

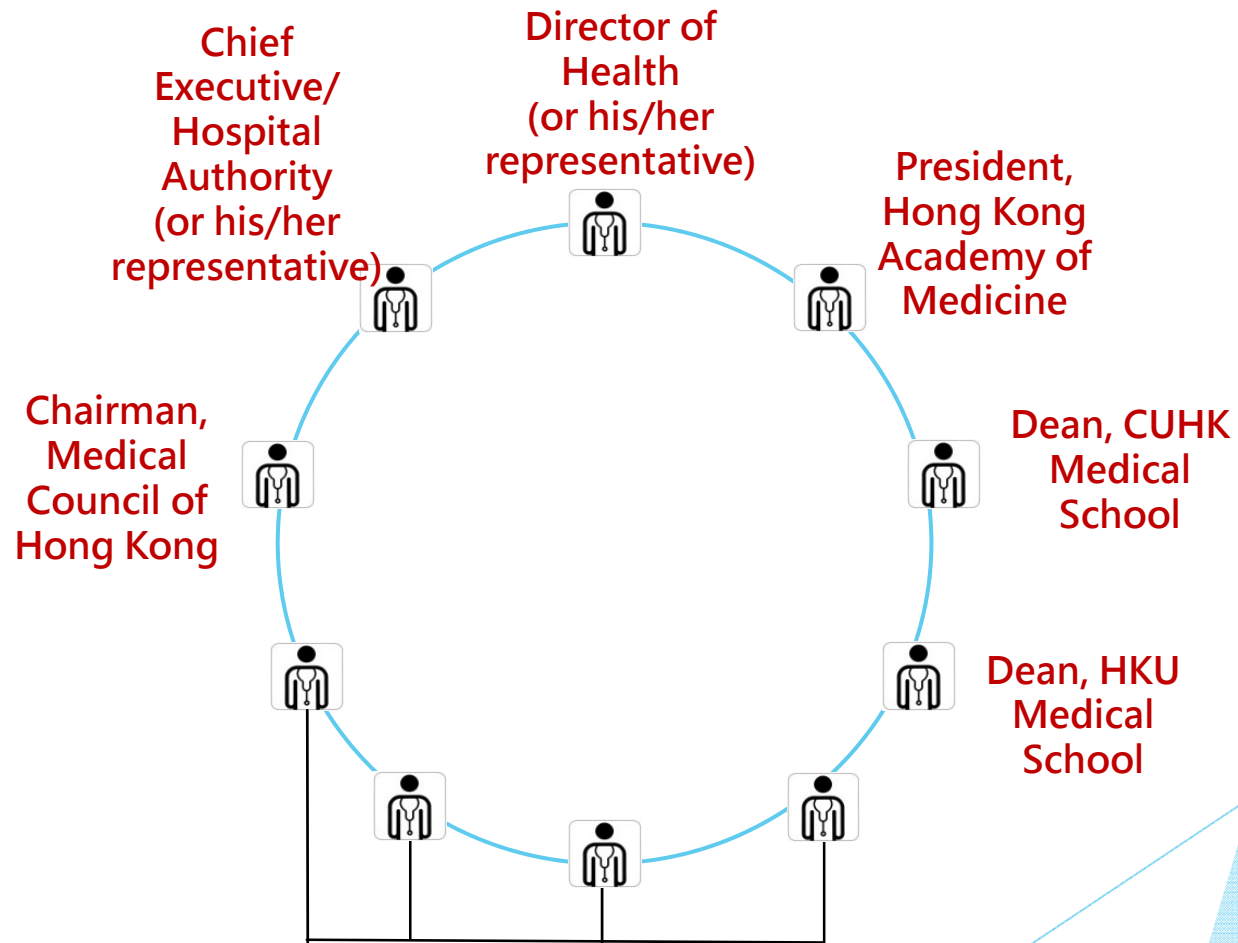


# Proposal



# Proposal

## ➤ Special Registration Committee



Not more than 4 members appointed by the Chief Executive  
(of which 3 are members of the Medical Council)



# Proposal

## ➤ Special Registration Committee

- To determine independently the list of recognized medical qualifications with reference to –
  - a) the medium of instruction of the medical programmes;
  - b) the curriculum of the medical programmes;
  - c) international rankings of the medical schools; and
  - d) any other aspects deemed appropriate
- To submit the list to the Registrar of Medical Practitioners **direct** for promulgation by **legal notice** in the Gazette
- The list to be **reviewed once every three years**

# Other Related Issues

## ➤ Structural Problems of the Public Healthcare System

- The Government has implemented and will continue to pursue various measures to enhance public healthcare services, including —
  - a) retaining HA doctors (e.g. the Retired and Rehire Scheme, recruitment of part-time doctors, more promotion and training opportunities);
  - b) promoting public-private partnership;
  - c) upgrading hardware facilities by implementing two “Ten-year Hospital Development Plans” ; and
  - d) promoting primary healthcare

## ➤ Career Prospect of Local Medical Graduates

- HA will provide sufficient posts to recruit all qualified local medical graduates and provide them with adequate specialist training opportunities

# Legislative Timetable

**Chief Executive-in-  
Council's approval  
(11 May 2021)**

**Publication in the  
Gazette  
(21 May 2021)**

**Introduction into  
LegCo  
(2 June 2021)**





**THANK YOU**