

**Mainland and Hong Kong  
Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Medical Services***

**1. What are the basic requirements and application procedures for setting up hospitals and convalescent hospitals in the Mainland?**

The hospitals in the Mainland are classified into different grades according to their scale and are further categorised into general hospitals, specialist hospitals, convalescent hospitals, etc. according to the scope of services provided. Relevant information relating to the classification of medical institutions in the Mainland could be found in the “Basic Standards of Medical Institutions (for Trial Implementation)” promulgated by the former Ministry of Health (now re-organised as the National Health Commission).

As for the requirements and application procedures for setting up hospitals, details are set out in the “Interim Administrative Measures on Setting up Wholly-Owned Hospitals by Hong Kong and Macao Service Suppliers in the Mainland” published in December 2010. Relevant hyperlink of the regulations can be found on the website of the Trade and Industry Department:

[https://www.tid.gov.hk/en/our\\_work/cepa/trade\\_in\\_services/sectors/medical.html?tab=1](https://www.tid.gov.hk/en/our_work/cepa/trade_in_services/sectors/medical.html?tab=1).

**2. Under CEPA, Hong Kong Service Suppliers (HKSS) are allowed to set up medical institutions in the form of wholly-owned or equity joint venture in the Mainland. Outpatient clinics are classified as one of the medical institutions. What is the meaning of outpatient clinics? What services do outpatient clinics cover? What are the application procedures?**

According to the “Implementation Details for the Management of Medical Institutions” promulgated on the website of the former Ministry of Health (now re-organised as the National Health Commission), outpatient clinics are divided into several categories such as “Integrated outpatient clinics” and “Specialist outpatient clinics”. In March 2009, the Department of

Health of the Guangdong Province (now re-organised as the Health Commission of the Guangdong Province) promulgated the “Implementation Details for the Setting up of Outpatient Clinics by Hong Kong/Macao Service Suppliers (Provisional)” on its website stipulating the requirements and application procedures for setting up outpatient clinics. Relevant hyperlink of the regulations can be found on the website of the Trade and Industry Department:

[https://www.tid.gov.hk/en/our\\_work/cepa/trade\\_in\\_services/sectors/medical.html?tab=1](https://www.tid.gov.hk/en/our_work/cepa/trade_in_services/sectors/medical.html?tab=1).

**3. What are the application procedures for Hong Kong permanent residents who wish to sit the Mainland’s qualification examinations for doctors?**

Hong Kong permanent residents who wish to participate in the Mainland’s qualification examinations for doctors should, in accordance with the “Law of the People’s Republic of China on Doctors” and the “Interim Provisions on National Examination for Qualification as a Doctor” and within the deadline as set out in the public notice, submit to the Secretariat of the relevant Boards and Councils (i.e. Medical Council of Hong Kong, Dental Council of Hong Kong, or Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong as appropriate) the following documents :

1. Completed “Application for Participating in the National Qualification Examinations for Doctors by Permanent Residents of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”;
2. Completed “Application for sitting the National Qualification Examinations for Doctors and Conferment of Qualification”; and
3. any other relevant supporting documents as stipulated by the relevant authorities in the prevailing time.

Interested persons may visit the websites of the National Health Commission (<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/>) or the National Medical Examination Center (<https://www1.nmec.org.cn/>) for the application forms and relevant details of the qualification examinations.

**4. How can Hong Kong permanent residents who are graduates of full-time Chinese medicine degree programmes of Hong Kong seek internship in the Mainland for the purpose of participating in the Mainland's Qualification Examinations for Doctors?**

Graduates of Chinese medicine degree programme from the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Baptist University of Hong Kong, who are permanent residents of Hong Kong, can apply to those recognised Chinese medicine institutions in the Mainland direct for medical internship. An “Application for Medical Internship for the Purpose of Sitting the National Qualification Examinations for Doctors by Permanent Residents of the Hong Kong/Macao Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong/Macao university graduates of Chinese medicine)” should be submitted. Subject to approval, the applicant will receive from the medical institution concerned a notification for internship. Upon completion of the internship for one year and passing of the assessment, the recognised Chinese medicine institutions will issue a “Certificate of Completion of Internship for the Purpose of Participating in the National Qualification Examinations for Doctors by Permanent Residents of the Hong Kong/Macao Special Administrative Region” to the applicant.

**5. Which is the Mainland authority for approving applications for setting up medical institutions in the Mainland?**

Under the Agreement on Trade in Services signed under the framework of CEPA, applications for setting up medical institutions in the Mainland by HKSS shall be approved by and registered with the health commissions at provincial level in accordance with the Mainland regulations.