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Tel. No.: 2388 2728 Fax: 2385 5275

Our ref.: HKDU/098/2014(R)

17th June, 2014

By hand

Dear Legislative Council Members,

Re: Expose the Lies of Government Officials

Hong Kong Doctors Union (HKDU) is the unique trade union with doctor members in both public and private services. Registered with the Trade Union Registry to look after the interests and rights of doctors in their employer employee relationship, HKDU is committed to upgrade the standard of medical doctors to cater for the health of the Hong Kong community.

HKDU puts interests and welfare of patients first when considering legislations concerning health and medical issues. The recent Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2014 contains some acceptable recommendations, but those on written orders and lowering the requirement of authorized person for drug manufacturing endanger patients and are unacceptable.

HKDU obtains the opinions of members before we put in our suggestions on their behalf and the requirement to use written order as the only method of ordering drugs has been strongly opposed by a majority of members and their patients. HKDU feels committed to explain how this requirement affects patients' health causing unnecessary delay in obtaining drugs. The Government repeatedly claims that the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) supports written order is not absolutely true, as it reflects only the opinion of some HKMA council members lacking support from a survey on her members.

Those who blindly support compulsory written method for ordering drugs cannot show any evidence that using this method is superior to the conventional and efficient oral method. Instead the written method causes delay in obtaining the correct medicine for the patients, exactly opposite to the benefit they claim.

What is more irritating is the statement made by Ms. Janice Tse, Deputy Secretary for Food & Health (Health) on the Bills Committee Meeting held at Legco Building on 20.5.2014, who does not know how the medical world function, that patients can go to the Hospital Authority if there is delay caused by written orders. Is this the attitude of Food & Health Bureau to flood the overburdened public medical system? Ms. Tse is totally irresponsible.

Further Ms. Tse claims, as reported in the news media on 10.6.2014 (Annex 1), there is doctor overstocking ORAL Ketamine (K仔 - 氯胺酮), a forbidden drug, who when challenged claim he did not order them. This show how ignorant Ms. Tse is. ORAL Ketamine (K仔 - 氯胺酮) is not manufactured by any legal drug firm in the world. She is inventing this story to tarnish the image of the medical profession and insults doctors turning them into forbidden drug dealers.

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HONG KONG
DOCTORS UNION
香港西醫工會

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Since Ms. Janice Tse is making up stories, lacking credibility and not possessing the basic trust and honesty government officials should possess, we ask her to step down from her office for the sake of patients and citizens of Hong Kong.

In relation to the recent proposed Pharmacy and Poisons Amendment Bill 2014, we would like to support the proposal made by Legislative Council members to retract the bill so that an effective and thorough consultation process with all stakeholders involved can be conducted.

Yours truly,

Dr. Ho Ock Ling Thomas
Hon. Secretary
Hong Kong Doctors Union

Encl.

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西醫藥劑師反修藥劑例

2014年6月10日 星期二

【明報專訊】2009年多名公立醫院病人服用發霉痛風藥後死亡，政府為改善問題，提出《2014年藥劑業及毒藥條例（修訂）草案》，但新增要求如藥物採購須以「書面方式訂購藥物」、藥劑師擔任藥房持牌人等卻惹爭議。香港藥劑師工會及香港西醫工會反對修訂，要求政府撤回草案再諮詢。但長期病患者關注醫療改革聯席、港大藥理及藥劑學系均認為草案以保障病人利益為前提，支持修例。

發霉痛風藥「別嘌醇」當年引致病人死亡後，政府推出75項改善措施，當中16項須修訂現行條例才可落實，立法會法案委員會正審議有關修訂草案。

買藥擬須書面紀錄

修訂草案提出訂購藥物者包括醫生及藥劑師，須以「書面方式購買藥物」，香港藥劑師工會及香港西醫工會表示，修訂會延誤藥房和醫生診所尋找藥物供應鏈及藥物採購的效率。他們又反對修訂「藥房持牌人定義」，認為若由藥劑師擔任藥房持牌人，會加重藥劑師的法律責任，並指政府諮詢未夠全面，要求撤回草案再諮詢。

食物及衛生局副局長陳肇始接受本報訪問表示，現時向藥廠訂藥不用書面紀錄，「打個電話便行，衛生署到診所巡查，發現診所持有處方藥物超出數量，醫生否認是他落單，但藥廠堅稱憑單送貨」。食衛局副秘書長（衛生）謝小華補充，有醫生訂購大量K仔（氬胺酮），但因無書面紀錄難以追查，故政府建議改例將漏洞堵塞。

盼堵毒品流出漏洞

陳肇始說，藥房持牌人目前定義是一種業務（Business）而非法人，律政署認為已過時，建議藥房持牌人必須列明是藥劑師或註冊公司。謝小華說，藥劑師若在藥房只是僱員而不是持牌人，毋須承擔法律責任，而修改也屬技術修訂，與現時情況並無分別。

病人組織學者撐修例

長期病患者關注醫療改革聯席代表彭鴻昌，支持「書面方式購買藥物」，也支持政府修訂藥物製造商除僱用藥劑師外，也可授權具相關知識如生化工程的人監督製藥生產。

港大醫學院藥理及藥劑學系主任黃志基認同草案是以維護及保障病人利益為前提，故支持先通過修訂草案。至於藥劑業界要求成立藥劑局（Pharmacy Council）為管理藥劑師的機構，可遲一步討論，毋須與修訂草案綑綁式通過。