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30th June 2014

Dear LegCo members,

Ref.: Pharmacy & Poison (Amendment) Bill 2014

Hong Kong Medical Association Good Dispensing Practice Manual

I would like to make a clarification about the position of the Hong Kong Medical Association on the need to mandatory requirement of drugs to be ordered in writing as referred by the Government officials on the captioned bill.

In 2005 and 2007, when I was the chairman of the Task Force on drafting the Good Dispensing Practice Manual of the Hong Kong Medical Association, it was purposely mentioned that ordering drugs in writing is "recommended" (Please see page 8 of Enclosure 1 and page 6 of Enclosure 2) but is not mandatory for the following reasons:

1. Drugs that are urgently required may be ordered by telephone and the receipt of the order is verified by signing of 2 documents, namely, the "order receipt form" and the "poison form";
2. Because the drugs can be effectively traced to where they are delivered with the above mentioned 2 documents, there is no need to depend on the written order for tracking and tracing where the drugs had been sold to by the drug suppliers;
3. In all developed countries in the world including USA, UK, Australia, Canada, and others, there is no mandatory requirement for drugs to be ordered in writing.

As the fact is that the Good Dispensing Practice Manual adopted by the Hong Kong Medical Association and promulgated by the Medical Council of Hong Kong does not mandatorily require drug to be ordered in writing, it should not be a mandatory requirement by the Government.

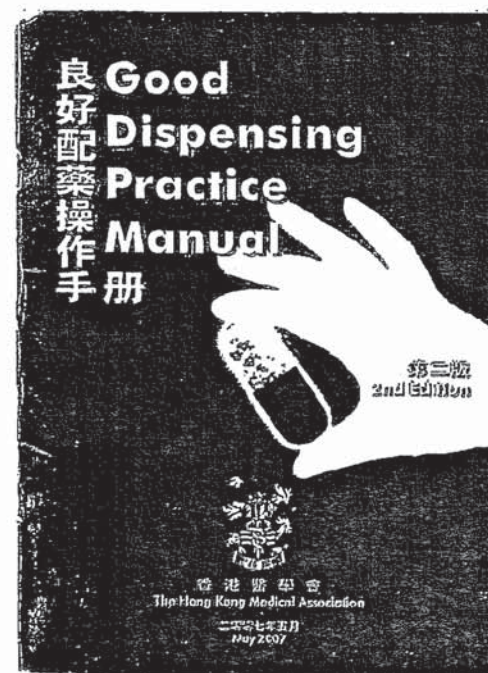
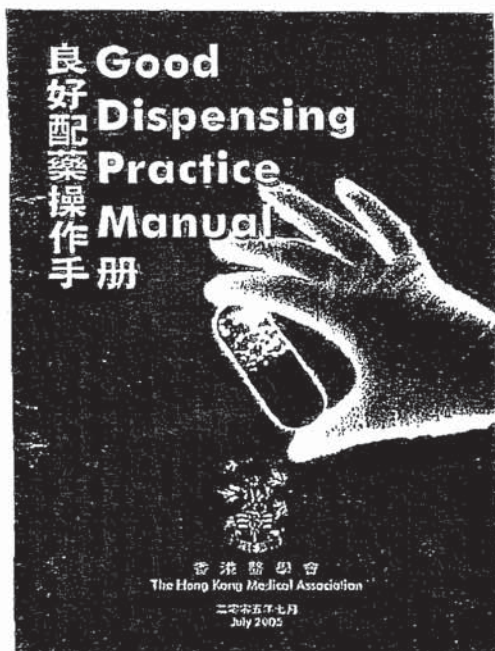
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Yeung Chiu Fat Henry

Former Chairman of the Task Force on drafting the Good Dispensing Practice Manual of the Hong Kong Medical Association

Encl.



GOOD DISPENSING PRACTICE MANUAL

4 STORES PROCUREMENT AND STOCK MANAGEMENT

Stores procurement

The Doctors in-charge are responsible for the requisition of pharmaceutical stores. Orders for drugs are recommended to be made in writing via post or fax by the doctor. All drugs should be checked and receipts signed by the doctor upon delivery of the drugs. (A sample order form is attached on P. 26 for reference)



GOOD DISPENSING PRACTICE MANUAL (2nd Edition)

5 STORES PROCUREMENT AND STOCK MANAGEMENT

Stores procurement

The Doctors in-charge are responsible for the requisition of pharmaceutical stores. It is recommended that the ordering of drugs from suppliers be made in writing, the written order to be kept for checking by the doctor against the drugs delivered and for future reference. (A sample order form is attached on P.16 for reference.)

