

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS BOARD
物 理 治 療 師 管 理 委 員 會

Your Ref. :
貴處檔號
Our Ref. : (71) in PT 9/G III
本會檔號
Tel. No. : 2527 8369
電 話
Fax No. : 2865 5540
圖文傳真

2/F, Shun Feng International Centre
182 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔皇后大道東182號
順豐國際中心2樓

Website網址: www.smp-council.org.hk
Email電郵: smpb@dh.gov.hk

2 June 2020

Mrs Eleanor CHAN WONG Yee
Chairman
Hong Kong Physiotherapists' Union
PO Box 889, General Post Office
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Chan,

Reminder on Renewal of Annual Practising Certificate for 2020/2021

I write to seek your assistance in reminding members of your association to renew their practising certificates, which are due for renewal on 1 July each year, if they have not done so yet.

———— You may note that the Government issued a press release (**Appendix I**) on 27 May 2020 that as a token of appreciation to healthcare professionals in the fight against coronavirus disease-2019, the fees payable in respect of statutory registration / enrolment as well as issuance and/or renewal of practising certificates for 13 healthcare professions (including physiotherapists) that take effect during the 3-year concession period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023 will be waived by the
———— Government if certain criteria are met. Relevant subsidiary legislation (**Appendix II**) was published in the Gazette on 29 May 2020 to give effect to the waiver. The
———— Board also issued a letter to all registrants (**Appendix III**) on 29 May 2020, which has already been posted on the “Message to Registrants” section at the Board’s website and will be mailed to registrants.

Although the fee for renewing the 2020/21 practising certificate will be waived, I should be grateful if you may remind members of your association that they should submit the **declaration on conviction record on or before 30 June 2020** should they wish to continue to practise beyond this date.

Pursuant to section 16(1) of the Supplementary Medical Professions (SMP) Ordinance, Chapter 359, Laws of Hong Kong, a person registered as a physiotherapist shall not practise the profession in Hong Kong unless he is the holder of a practising certificate which is then in force. Section 10(4) of the SMP Ordinance empowers the Physiotherapists Board to direct the removal from the register of the name of a registrant who –

- (a) requests in writing that his name be removed;
- (b) is deceased;
- (c) being a person required to be the holder of a practising certificate, has practised the profession in Hong Kong for a period exceeding six months without having obtained such a certificate;
- (d) is not practising his profession in Hong Kong; or
- (e) has not supplied the secretary of the board with an address in Hong Kong at which all notices from the board may be served on him.

You may also wish to take the opportunity to remind members of your association that if they do not apply for renewal of the practising certificate by 31 December 2020, their names will be liable to be removed from the register of physiotherapists.

Any enquiries may be directed to the Secretariat of the Physiotherapists Board with contact details listed below –

Telephone no. : 2527 8369
Fax No : 2865 5540
Email address : smpb@dh.gov.hk

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Angela HO)
for Secretary, Physiotherapists Board

Press Releases

Government to gazette waiver of registration and related fees for healthcare professionals

The Government will publish pieces of subsidiary legislation in the Gazette on Friday (May 29) to give effect to the waiver of statutory registration fees for 13 healthcare professions as announced by the Chief Executive on April 8, as a token of appreciation to healthcare professionals in the fight against COVID-19.

"The waiver will be valid for three years with effect from July 1, 2020. During the concession period the fees payable in respect of statutory registrations/enrolments for the 13 healthcare professions as well as the fees payable in respect of the issuance and/or renewal of practising certificates that take effect during the concession period will be waived," a Government spokesman said today (May 27).

The 13 healthcare professions include doctors, dentists, dental hygienists, nurses, midwives, Chinese medicine practitioners, pharmacists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, medical laboratory technologists, optometrists, radiographers and chiropractors. It is estimated that about 125 000 healthcare professionals will benefit from the waiver. Government revenue forgone will be about \$92 million.

Ends/Wednesday, May 27, 2020
Issued at HKT 15:00

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L.N. 108 of 2020**Physiotherapists (Fee Concessions) Regulation 2020**

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 29(1) of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359))

1. Commencement

This Regulation comes into operation on 1 July 2020.

2. Interpretation

In this Regulation—

concession period (寬免期) means the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023 (both dates inclusive);

Fees Schedule (費用附表) means Schedule 3 to the Physiotherapists Regulation;

Physiotherapists Regulation (《物理治療師規例》) means the Physiotherapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359 sub. leg. J);

register (註冊名冊) has the meaning given by section 2 of the Physiotherapists Regulation.

3. Registration fees

- (1) Item 1 of the Fees Schedule is subject to this section.
- (2) The fee payable for a registration in the register that takes effect during the concession period is \$0.

4. Fees for specified practising certificates

- (1) Item 3 of the Fees Schedule is subject to this section.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the fee payable for the issue of a specified practising certificate that takes effect during the concession period is \$0.
- (3) If more than 3 specified practising certificates issued to a person in respect of the same part of the register take effect during the concession period, subsection (2) applies, as far as those certificates are concerned, in relation only to the 3 certificates that first take effect.
- (4) In this section—
- part* (部分), in relation to the register, means Part Ia, Part Ib or Part II of the register as referred to in section 3(2) of the Physiotherapists Regulation;
- specified practising certificate* (指明執業證明書) means a practising certificate for practising as a person of the description referred to in item 3 of the Schedule to the Ordinance.

5. Expiry

This Regulation expires at midnight on 30 June 2023.

Wendy LEUNG
Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

26 May 2020

Explanatory Note

This Regulation provides for a concession on the fees payable under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359) for the following matters if certain criteria are met—

- (a) registration in the register of physiotherapists; and
- (b) issue of practising certificates for physiotherapists.

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本會檔號
Tel. No.: 2961 8652
電 話
Fax No.: 2891 7946
圖文傳真

2/F, Shun Feng International Centre
182 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔皇后大道東182號
順豐國際中心2樓

Website網址: www.smp-council.org.hk
Email電郵: smpb@dh.gov.hk

29 May 2020

To: All registered physiotherapists

Dear Sir / Madam,

Waiver of Registration and Related Fees for Healthcare Professionals

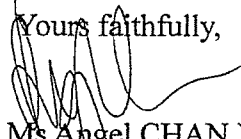
As a token of appreciation to the healthcare professionals (including physiotherapists in the fight against the coronavirus disease-2019, the fees payable in respect of statutory registration as well as issuance and/or renewal of practising certificates that take effect during the three-year concession period **from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023** will be waived by the Government. Please refer to the press release issued by the Government on 27 May 2020 (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202005/27/P2020052700365.htm>) for details.

Regarding the application for the 2020/21 practising certificate, registrants are invited to note the following:

- (a) The fee for renewing the 2020/21 practising certificate will be **waived**;
- (b) For those who have already paid the fee for renewal of the 2020/21 practising certificates, refund will be arranged as soon as possible; and
- (c) For those who have not yet submitted the **declaration on conviction record**, please be reminded that the completed declaration form should reach the Central Registration Office **on or before 30 June 2020**. The declaration form has been enclosed with the letter dated 31 March 2020 reminding registrants to renew the practising certificate; or registrants can download the declaration form vide <https://www.smp-council.org.hk/pt/file/pdf/Declaration%20Form-%20PT.pdf>. Pursuant to section 16(2)(b) of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359, Laws of Hong Kong), **submission of the declaration form** is one of the **statutory requirements** for registrants who wish to continue to **practise beyond 30 June 2020**.

For enquiries, please contact the Central Registration Office at 2961 8652.

Yours faithfully,



(Ms Angel CHAN)

Secretary, Physiotherapists Board