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23 September 2025

Dear Dentist,

Reminder – Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance

Further to our letter to dentists issued on 28 July 2025, we write to remind you that **application for clinic licence and request for letter of exemption for small practice clinic under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) (the Ordinance) will commence on 13 October 2025**. Clinic operators should make themselves familiar with the regulatory regime and are advised to submit applications early.

Clinics

Under the Ordinance, clinic refers to a premises that do not form part of the premises of a hospital, a day procedure centre or an outreach facility; and that are used, or intended to be used, for providing medical services to patients or carrying out minor medical procedures on patients, without lodging. Operators are required to comply with all the requirements under the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for Clinics in order to obtain a clinic licence.

As a transitional arrangement, clinics in operation on 30 November 2018 and apply for a licence within the period from **13 October 2025 to 13 April 2026 (both dates inclusive)** will be issued with a **provisional clinic licence**, if the conditions under section 136(2) of the Ordinance are met. Clinics issued with a provisional clinic licence may continue to operate legally until the application for full licence is approved, withdrawn or rejected, or the Secretary for Health appoints by notice published in the Gazette the date on which the transitional arrangement expires.

Small practice clinics (SPCs)

An SPC is a clinic operated only by registered medical practitioners and/or registered dentists, and meeting the conditions set out under section 41 of the Ordinance including the number

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of medical practitioners or dentists as operator(s) of the SPC, the exclusive right of operator(s) to use the premises and locum arrangement. If a facility falls under the meaning of an SPC, other than applying for a clinic licence, the operator may request for a letter of exemption, which permits the person to operate the SPC without a licence under the Ordinance.

Briefing sessions and further information

With a view to introducing the application procedures for clinic licence, the transitional arrangements for provisional clinic licence and the requirements for obtaining a letter of exemption for SPCs, briefing sessions and face-to-face discussion sessions will be conducted from October to December 2025. Presentation materials and animation videos explaining the regulatory regime, as well as frequently ask questions are available on the website of the Office for Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities (ORPHF) <https://www.orphf.gov.hk>. Please visit the website of the ORPHF or scan the QR Codes below for details.

For enquiries, please contact us at 2631 1782 or visit the website of the ORPHF at <https://www.orphf.gov.hk>.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Andrew BUT)
for Director of Health

Simple Guide to the Ordinance



Code of Practice for Clinics



Briefing sessions

