



THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

Guidance Notes to Applicants- 2023 Licensing Examination (First Sitting)

ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility for taking the Licensing Examination is governed by section 7A of the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161 of the Laws of Hong Kong (“MRO”) which stipulates that:

“(1) *No person shall be eligible to take the Licensing Examination unless—*

(a) the person makes an application in that behalf to the Council and pays to the Registrar a prescribed fee for taking the Licensing Examination; and

(b) the person satisfies the Council that the person is of good character and—

(i) that at the time of the application the person has satisfactorily completed not less than 5 years full time medical training of a type approved by the Council and is the holder of a medical qualification acceptable to the Council; or

(ii) as an alternative for a Hong Kong permanent resident—that the person holds a medical qualification that is a recognized medical qualification for the purposes of section 14C.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b)(i), the 5 years full time medical training shall include a period of internship as approved by the Council.”

2. Please refer to Guideline 1 for further details of eligibility to take the Licensing Examination.

REGISTRATION AS A CANDIDATE

3. Different categories of applicants should use different forms:
 - **New applicants** : **Form 1A* / 1B*** (“Registration as Candidate”)
 - **Re-sit applicants** : **Form 2** (“Application to Take 2023 Licensing Examination (First Sitting)”)

- * For new applicants applying for taking the examination in accordance with **section 7A(1)(b)(i)** of the MRO, **Form 1A** should be used.
 - * For new applicants applying for taking the examination in accordance with **section 7A(1)(b)(ii)** of the MRO, **Form 1B** should be used.
4. Form 1A / 1B and Form 2 can be:
- downloaded from the website of the Council (<https://leip.mchk.org.hk/EN/doc.html>); or
 - collected from the Licentiate Committee Secretariat (4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong).
5. **New applicants:**
- submit Form 1A / 1B
 - pay application fee and submit proof of payment (pay examination fee when being notified to do so)
 - submit notarized photocopy of all supporting documents (including identity document, certificates and transcripts as specified in the respective application forms)
6. **Re-sit applicants:**
- pay application fee and submit proof of payment together with Form 2
 - pay examination fee when being notified to do so after the Medical Council has confirmed the applicant's eligibility to take the Licensing Examination
7. Complete application form clearly and in BLOCK letters. Incomplete or illegible applications will not be processed. Insert a "✓" sign in appropriate boxes. Documents submitted will not be returned.
8. Photocopies of supporting documents must be:
- notarized by a notary public (photocopies certified by other persons e.g. solicitor, Justice of Peace will not be accepted); or
 - verified by the Licentiate Committee Secretariat (the applicant must present both the originals and photocopies in person to the Secretariat for verification).
9. Make a declaration before a Commissioner for Oaths, solicitor, Justice of the Peace or notary public to confirm the truth of all information provided. Declaration service is also available free of charge at the Licentiate Committee Secretariat.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

10. Submit application together with the supporting documents by **registered post or hand delivery** to:

Secretary, Licentiate Committee
Medical Council of Hong Kong
4/F, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building

99 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

11. The following applications will **NOT** be accepted:
submitted by facsimile or email;
received after the closing date;
illegible or incomplete; or
lacking proof of payment of the relevant fees
12. All applications must reach the Licentiate Committee Secretariat within the following periods:

Form 1A / 1B

Formal application 14.10.2022 - 14.11.2022

Form 2

Examination in Professional Knowledge 14.10.2022 - 14.11.2022
Proficiency Test in Medical English 14.10.2022 - 14.11.2022
Clinical Examination 15.3.2023 - 30.3.2023

FEES

13. Fees payable are (subject to prevailing rates on the date of payment):

Application fee (*to be paid at the time of application*) : HK\$1,590

Examination fee :

(to be notified for payment upon confirmation of the eligibility to sit for the examination)

Part I Examination in Professional Knowledge	HK\$3,220
Part II Proficiency Test in Medical English	HK\$1,850
Part III Clinical Examination	
<i>All disciplines</i>	HK\$3,540
<i>Single discipline (re-sit candidates only)</i>	HK\$1,380

14. Payment should be made by:

- sending a bank draft payable to “**Director of Health (Boards & Councils Office)**” to the Licentiate Committee Secretariat; or

- telegraphic transfer into the following bank account:

Name of account	:	Director of Health (Boards & Councils Office)
Name of bank	:	The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (Bank Code: 004) (SWIFT Code: HSBC HK HHH KH)
Account number	:	048-202584-001

15. Payment must be made in Hong Kong dollars. Cash or other currencies will not be

accepted. **Bank handling charges** should be kept separate from the fees and settled separately.

16. Keep receipt as proof of payment. Mark the Applicant's Name and Candidate Number (if any) on a copy of the receipt and submit together with the application form. For payment made after submission of the application form (e.g. examination fee for new applicants), send copy of receipt to the Licentiate Committee Secretariat [Fax: (852) 2554 0577; Email: mc-exam@dh.gov.hk].
17. **Application fee** is neither refundable nor transferable for other purposes.
18. **Examination fee** is not refundable, unless:
 - (i) in exceptional circumstances; or
 - (ii) exemption is granted for the relevant part of the Licensing Examination.

EXAMINATION

19. The Licensing Examination is held twice in Hong Kong per annum. Each sitting consists of 3 parts:

Part I : Examination in Professional Knowledge

(tentatively scheduled for 28 February & 1 March 2023)

It is designed to test candidates' professional knowledge in basic sciences, medical ethics/community medicine, medicine, surgery, orthopaedic surgery, psychiatry, paediatrics and obstetrics & gynaecology. Questions are in both English and Chinese. The syllabus is at **Appendix I**.

Part II : Proficiency Test in Medical English

(tentatively scheduled for 27 February 2023)

It is a written professional English paper to test candidates' proficiency in Medical English. Questions are in English.

Part III : Clinical Examination

(tentatively scheduled within two weeks from late May to early June 2023)

It is designed to test candidates' ability to apply professional knowledge to clinical problems in 4 areas: Medicine, Surgery (including cases on Orthopaedic Surgery), Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics. Candidates can answer in English, Cantonese or Putonghua (choice to be made in application form).

20. Candidate must have passed Part I and Part II examinations before applying to take Part III examination.
21. Part III examination (Clinical Examination) has a capacity for 72 candidates only. If the number of applicants exceeds 72, the seats will be allocated in accordance with the mechanism set out in **Appendix II**.

PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT

22. After passing Part III examination, any person who wishes to be registered as a medical practitioner under section 14 or 14C of the MRO shall complete, to the satisfaction of the Council, such period of assessment as the Council may determine (not exceeding 12 months) in an approved hospital or in an approved institution. During the period of assessment, he/she will receive clinical instructions to familiarize himself/herself with the local medical system and the commonly found diseases. Upon successful completion of the period of assessment and fulfilment of other relevant requirements, he/she is eligible:
- (1) to apply for full registration as a medical practitioner under section 14 of the MRO if he/she has taken the Licensing Examination in accordance with section 7A(1)(b)(i) of the MRO; or
 - (2) to apply for special registration as a medical practitioner under section 14C of the MRO if he/she has taken the Licensing Examination in accordance with section 7A(1)(b)(ii) of the MRO.
23. Any person who has passed the Licensing Examination (i.e. passed all of Part I, II and III) should commence the period of assessment on either 1 July or 1 January of the following year, unless deferment of the period of assessment has been granted.

CRIMINAL CONVICTION / PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

24. An applicant who has been convicted of any criminal offence or found guilty of professional misconduct (in Hong Kong or elsewhere) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

WARNING

25. The Licentiate Committee may verify the truth of the information / documents provided by an applicant with the relevant authorities.
26. Any approval given on the basis of false declaration / information / documents provided by an applicant is null and void. All results in the Licensing Examination will also be revoked.
27. The following are criminal offences punishable with imprisonment, and will be reported to the police or the Independent Commission Against Corruption for prosecution:
- making a false declaration;
 - providing false information and/or using false documents in connection with an application; or
 - offering any advantage (money or gift) to the staff of the Medical Council in connection with an application.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

28. Candidates may refer to the website of the Medical Council at <https://leip.mchk.org.hk/EN/doc.html> for guidelines concerning eligibility to sit the Licensing Examination, exemption in Licensing Examination and the period of assessment.

APPEAL

29. Any appeal against the decision of the Licentiate Committee or its sub-committees should be made within 14 days of being notified of the decision, in accordance with the procedure set out in **Appendix III**.
30. An applicant who has applied for a review or has made an appeal cannot take or apply to take the next Licensing Examination until after final conclusion of the review or appeal.
31. If an applicant applies for a review or appeal after he/she has submitted an application for taking the next Licensing Examination, his/her application for taking the next Licensing Examination will be withheld from being processed until after final conclusion of the review or appeal.

Licentiate Committee
The Medical Council of Hong Kong

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

**2023 Licensing Examination (First Sitting)-
Part I: Examination in Professional Knowledge**

<u>Syllabus</u>	<u>Format</u>
	<u>Paper I</u>
	<i>(120 multiple-choice questions)</i>
1. Anatomy	Basic Sciences * (10 MCQ)
2. Biochemistry	Medicine (60 MCQ)
3. Physiology	Psychiatry (15 MCQ)
4. Pathology	Paediatrics (35 MCQ)
5. Microbiology	
6. Pharmacology	
7. Medicine	
8. Surgery	
9. Paediatrics	<u>Paper II</u>
10. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	<i>(120 multiple-choice questions)</i>
11. Psychiatry	Basic Sciences * (10 MCQ)
12. Orthopaedic Surgery & Traumatology	Medical Ethics/ Community Medicine (15 MCQ)
13. Epidemiology & Community Medicine	Surgery (45 MCQ)
14. Medical Ethics & Medical Law	Orthopaedic Surgery (15 MCQ)
15. General Practice & Family Medicine	Obstetrics & Gynaecology (35 MCQ)
16. Anaesthesiology	
17. Emergency Medicine	
18. Diagnostic Radiology	
19. Ophthalmology	
20. Ear, Nose & Throat	

* Basic Sciences cover pre-clinical disciplines, such as Anatomy, Pharmacology and Physiology.

- 1 mark to be given for a correct answer;
- No mark to be given or deducted for an incorrect answer or unanswered question;
- Pass mark: 50% (i.e. 60 marks) in each paper, with a total of 60% (i.e. 144 marks) for both of Papers I and II.

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

Allocation of seats in Clinical Examination

1. The 72 available seats in Part III examination (Clinical Examination) of the 2023 Licensing Examination (First Sitting) will be allocated in accordance with the following mechanism:
 - (a) Applicants will be prioritized into the following 3 categories in a descending priority:
 - Category A: Applicants who have passed 3 subjects in Part III examination (i.e. Clinical Examination) of the 2022 Licensing Examination (Second Sitting), and have a valid pass in Part I examination (i.e. Professional Knowledge) for taking the scheduled sitting of the Clinical Examination in 2023;
 - Category B: Applicants whose previous pass in Part I examination will cease to be valid after 2023 (calendar year), or applicants who have already taken the Clinical Examination for 4 times;
 - Category C: All other applicants.
 - (b) The seats will first be allocated to the applicants in Category A. If such applicants exceed the number of seats available, lots will be drawn.
 - (c) The remaining seats will then be allocated to the applicants in Category B. If such applicants exceed the number of seats available, lots will be drawn.
 - (d) The remaining seats will then be allocated to the applicants in Category C. If such applicants exceed the number of seats available, lots will be drawn.
 - (e) Applicants who are not allocated seats will be given enhanced priority in subsequent Licensing Examinations. One priority point will be given for each application ending in non-allocation of seats for one time. Applicants with more priority points will be accorded higher priority within the respective category.
2. An illustration of the allocation mechanism is set out below:

2019 CE (First Sitting)

Maximum Capacity	:	72
Category A	:	10
Category B	:	20
Category C	:	70

All applicants in Categories A and B and 42 applicants in Category C will be allocated seats (i.e. $10 + 20 + 42 = 72$). The remaining 28 applicants in Category C

ending in non-allocation of seats will be given 1 priority point.

2019 CE (Second Sitting)

Maximum Capacity	:	72
Category A	:	20
Category B	:	30
Category C	:	28 (with 1 priority point) 40 (with 0 priority point)

All applicants in Categories A and B and 22 applicants in Category C (with 1 priority point) will be allocated seats (i.e. $20 + 30 + 22 = 72$). The remaining 6 applicants in “Category C (with 1 priority point) will be given 1 additional priority point (i.e. 2 points in total for non-allocation of seats for 2 times so far). The 40 applicants in Category C (with 0 point) will be given 1 priority point.

2021 CE (Second Sitting)

Maximum Capacity	:	72
Category A	:	5
Category B	:	20
Category C	:	6 (with 2 priority points) 40 (with 1 priority point) 30 (with 0 priority point)

All applicants in Categories A, B, C (with 2 priority points), C (with 1 priority point) as well as 1 applicant in Category C (with 0 priority point) will be allocated seats (i.e. $5 + 20 + 6 + 40 + 1 = 72$). The remaining 29 applicants in Category C (with 0 priority point) will be given 1 priority point.

2022 CE (Second Sitting)

Maximum Capacity	:	72
Category A	:	35
Category B	:	40
Category C	:	29 (with 1 priority point) 30 (with 0 priority point)

All applicants in Category A and 37 applicants in Category B will be allocated seats (i.e. $35 + 37 = 72$). The remaining 3 applicants in Category B will be given 1 priority point. The 29 applicant in Category C (with 1 priority point) will be given 1 additional priority point (i.e. 2 points in total for non-allocation of seats for 2 times so far). The 30 applicants in Category C (with 0 priority point) will be given 1 priority point.

**THE LICENTIATE COMMITTEE
OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG**

**Appeal against Decision
of the Licentiate Committee and Its Sub-committees**

Licentiate Committee and its Sub-committees

1. The Licentiate Committee is responsible for conducting the Licensing Examination, and assessing the performance of candidates during the period of assessment after passing the Licensing Examination. Five sub-committees are set up to carry out the following functions:
 - (i) Credentials Sub-committee
 - to vet the qualifications of applicants and determine their eligibility to take the Licensing Examination; and
 - to determine whether candidates who have failed 5 consecutive times in a part of the examination should be granted further attempts
 - (ii) Examination Sub-committee
 - to prepare and conduct the examination
 - to certify passes and failures
 - (iii) Internship Sub-committee
 - to be responsible for the posting (in collaboration with the Central Internship Committee of the Hospital Authority), supervision and assessment of interns
 - (iv) Exemptions Sub-committee
 - to consider applications for exemption from part(s) of the examination and the period of assessment
 - (v) Review Sub-committee
 - to consider appeals of candidates against the decisions of the Credentials Sub-committee, Examination Sub-committee and Internship Sub-committee

Appeal against the decision of Credentials / Examination / Internship Sub-Committee

2. An appeal against the decision of the **Credentials / Examination / Internship Sub-Committee** should be made to the Review Sub-Committee, under section 20G(1) of the Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”). The appeal must be made within 14 days of being notified of the decision.
3. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Review Sub-Committee, setting out the decision appealed against and the grounds of appeal. The procedure is

set out in section 44 of the Medical Practitioners (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (“Regulation”).

Appeal against Review Sub-committee

4. An appeal against the decision of the **Review Sub-Committee** should be made to the Licentiate Committee, under section 20G(3) of the MRO. The appeal must be made within 14 days of the decision.
5. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Licentiate Committee, setting out the decision appealed against and the grounds of appeal. The appellant may appear at the hearing of his/her appeal and may be heard in person or by his/her representative. Details of the appeal procedures are set out in section 45 of the Regulation. The decision of the Licentiate Committee shall be final.

Appeal against Exemptions Sub-committee

6. An appeal against the decision of the **Exemptions Sub-Committee** regarding exemption from any part of the Licensing Examination should be made to the Licentiate Committee, under section 20F(1A) of the MRO. The appeal must be made within 14 days of being notified of the decision.
7. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Licentiate Committee, setting out the decision appealed against and the grounds of appeal.

Appeal against Licentiate Committee

8. An appeal against the decision of the **Licentiate Committee** regarding exemption from any part of the Licensing Examination should be made to the Medical Council, under section 20F(2) of the MRO. The appeal must be made within 14 days of being notified of the decision.
9. The appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Medical Council, setting out the decision appealed against and the grounds of appeal. The appellant may appear at the hearing of his/her appeal and may be heard in person or by his/her representative. Details of the appeal procedures are set out in section 43 of the Regulation. The decision of the Medical Council shall be final.

No further attempt at examination until after final conclusion of review/appeal

10. An applicant who has applied for a review or has appealed cannot take or apply to take the next Licensing Examination until after final conclusion of the review or appeal.
11. If an applicant applies for a review or appeals after he/she has submitted an application for taking the next Licensing Examination, his/her application for taking the next Licensing Examination will be withheld from processing until after final conclusion of the review or appeal.