

Briefing on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)

Background

Office for Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities
Department of Health
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
2025



Contents



The Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance



Private healthcare facilities to be regulated

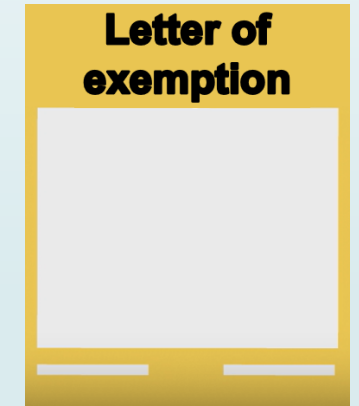
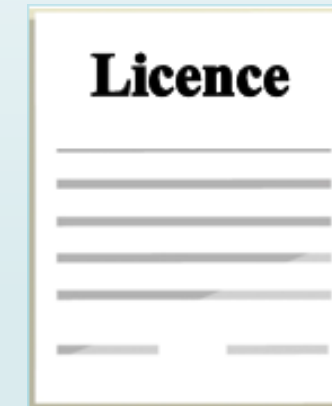


Timeline



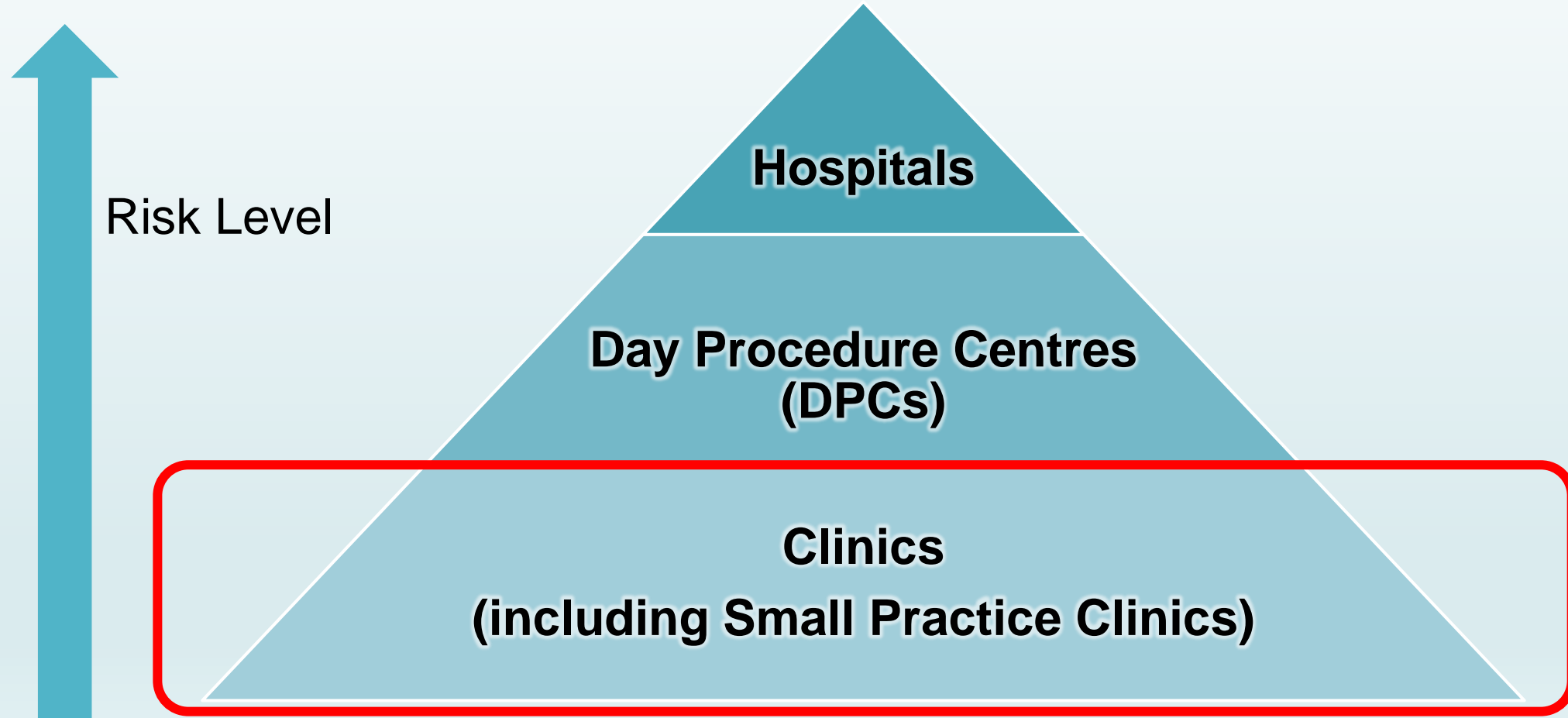
The Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (PHFO)

- The PHFO was gazetted on 30 November 2018
- A new regulatory regime to further **protect patient safety and rights**
- All private healthcare facilities where registered medical practitioners and/or registered dentists practise must **obtain a licence or a letter of exemption**



Private healthcare facilities (PHFs) to be regulated

- Four types of PHFs are subject to regulation
- The PHFO is being **implemented in phases** based on the types of PHFs and their risk levels



Health services establishments: Schedule 9 to the PHFO



Classification of hospital, DPC and clinic

	Hospital	DPC	Clinic*
Provide medical services to patients with lodging	✓	✗	✗
Provide medical procedures which require continuous confinement of the patient within the facility for more than 12 hours	✓	✗	✗
Receive pregnant women for childbirth or women immediately after childbirth	✓	✗	✗
Provide hospital-only medical procedures stipulated in the Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres	✓	✗	✗
Provide scheduled medical procedures specified in Column 2 of Schedule 3 to the PHFO	✓	✓	✗
Provide consultation services and minor medical procedures specified in section 2, and Column 3 of Schedule 3 to the PHFO	✓	✓	✓

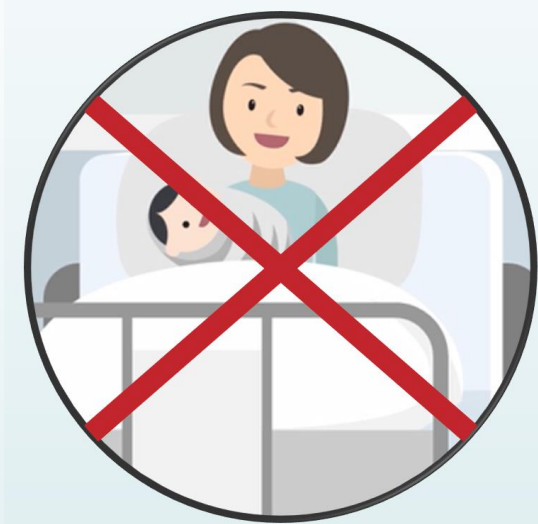
* including small practice clinic



Meaning of clinic



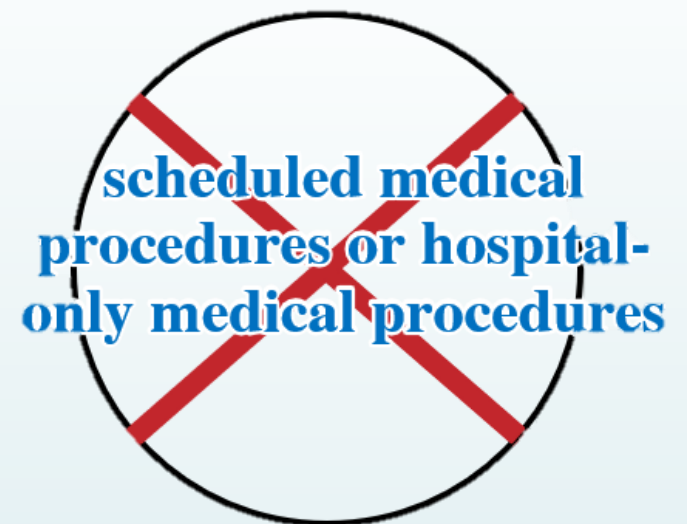
Premises where registered medical practitioners or registered dentists provide medical services **without lodging**



NOT to provide services to pregnant women for childbirth or women immediately after childbirth



Continuous confinement of patients within the clinic **should not exceed 12 hours**



Cannot provide the **scheduled medical procedures** specified in the PHFO or the **hospital-only medical procedures** stipulated in the Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres



Meaning of small practice clinic (SPC)

- Clinics operated only by registered medical practitioner(s) or registered dentist(s)
- The operation may be in the form of a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a company
- The following three necessary conditions must also be met:

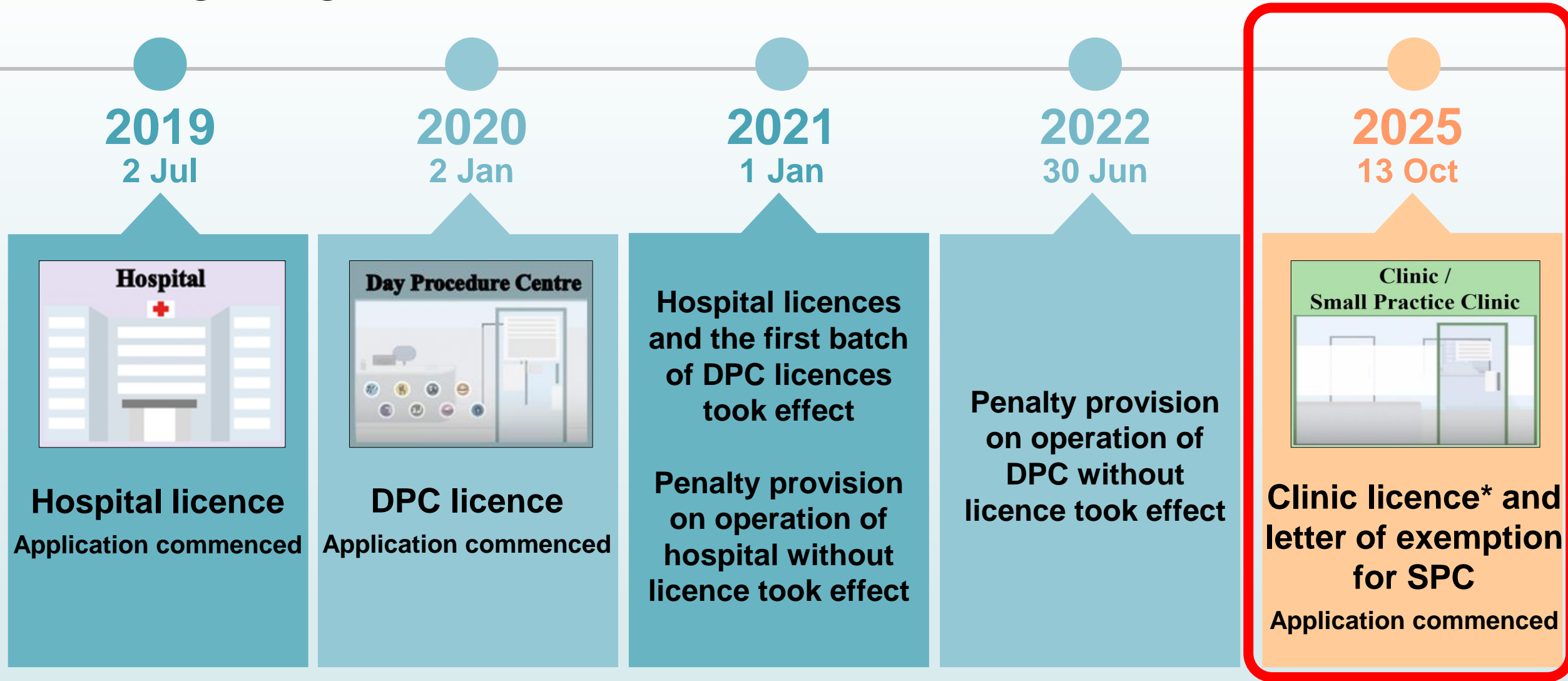
**1. Number of
doctors or
dentists**

**2. The exclusive
right of operators
to use the
premises**

**3. Locum
arrangements**



Timeline



*

(i) **Transitional arrangement** for clinics in operation on 30 Nov 2018

(ii) When the first batch of clinic licences take effect (date to be confirmed), the **Medical Clinics Ordinance (Cap. 343)** will be repealed



ORPHF Website

Application for Clinic Licence and
Request for Letter of Exemption for
Small Practice Clinic Started on
13 October 2025

**Application Period for Clinic Provisional Licence:
13 October 2025 – 13 April 2026**

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www.orphf.gov.hk

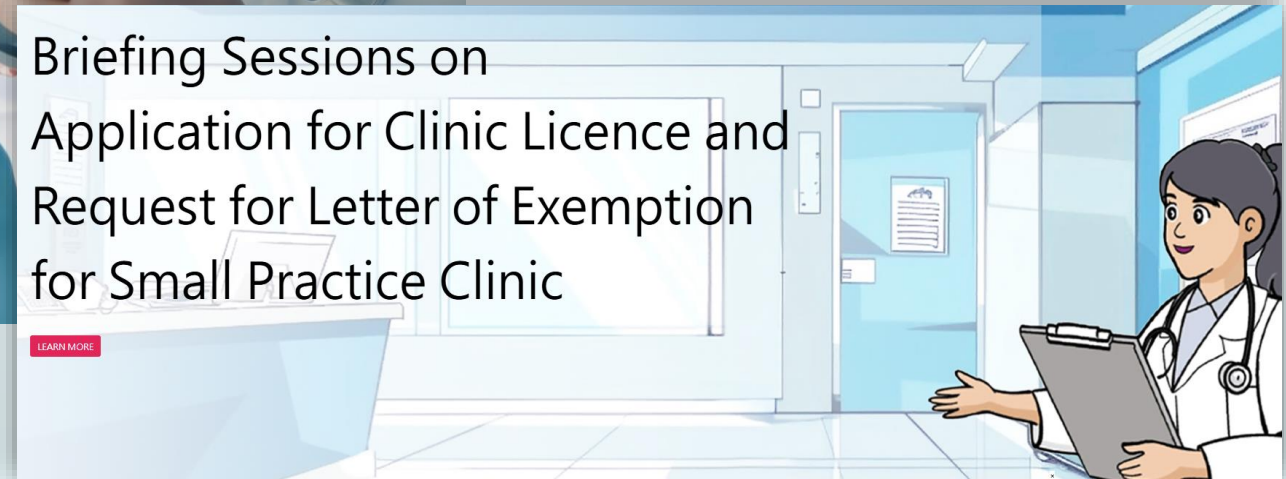
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Briefing Sessions on
Application for Clinic Licence and
Request for Letter of Exemption
for Small Practice Clinic

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Summary

- PHFO was gazetted on 30 November 2018
- PHFs must obtain a licence or a letter of exemption
- Applications for hospital licence and DPC licence are ongoing
- Applications for clinic licence and letter of exemption for SPC commenced on **13 October 2025**
- Other briefing sessions

Event

Date	Description
Nov 25 to Apr 26	Online Briefing Sessions on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic (For Clinics with Medical Practice)
25 Nov 25	Briefing Session on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic (For Clinics with Medical Practice)
Oct to Dec 25	October to December Briefing Sessions on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic (For Clinics with Dental Practice)



Thank you

