

# **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

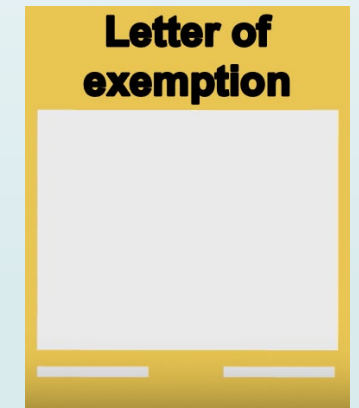


Timeline



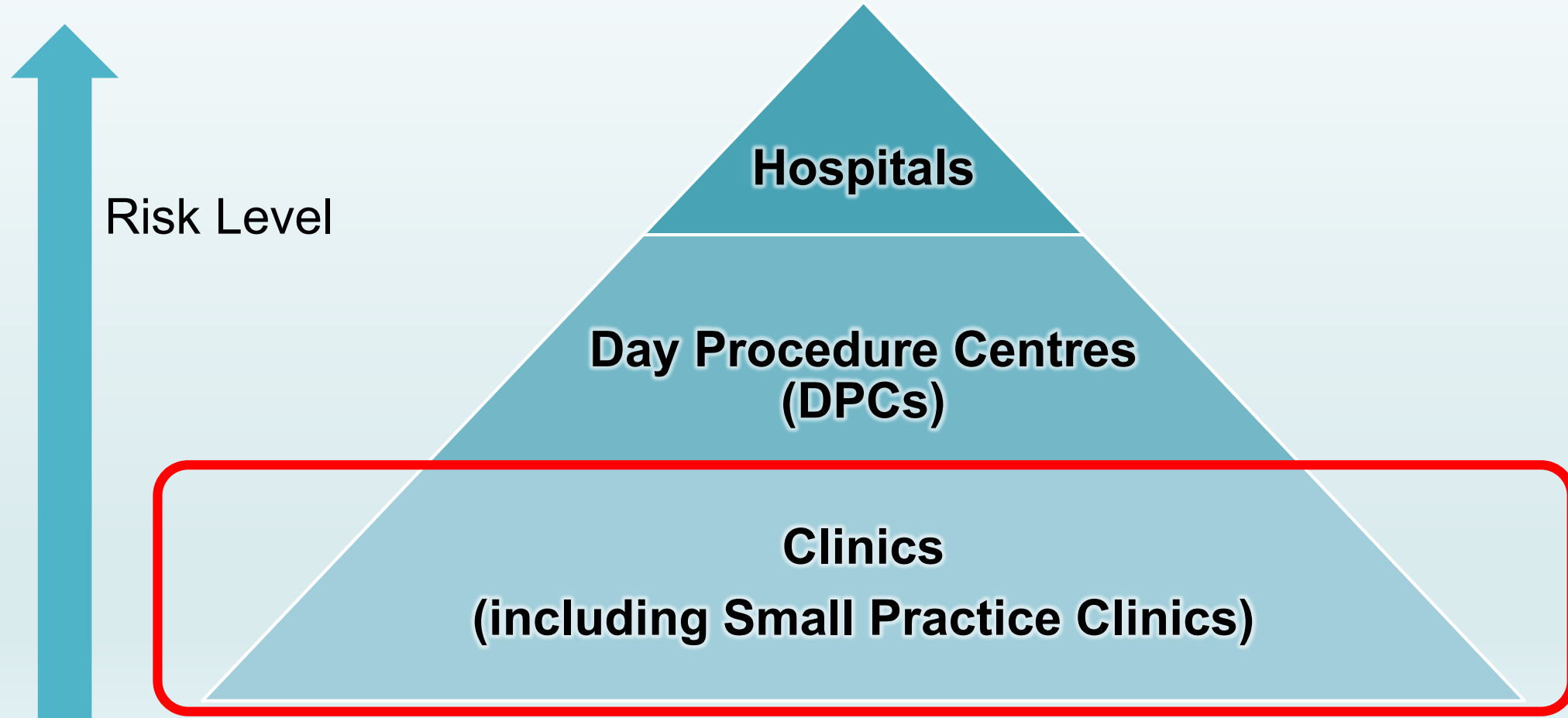
# The Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (PHFO)

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

\* including small practice clinic



# Meaning of clinic



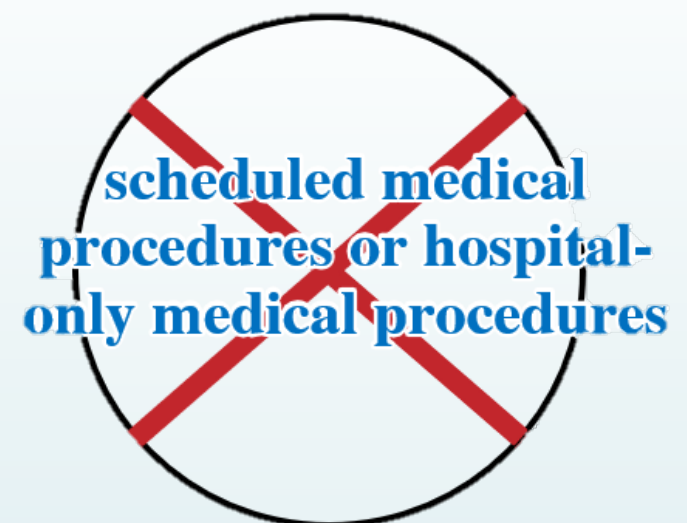
Premises where registered medical practitioners or registered dentists provide medical services **without lodging**



**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:

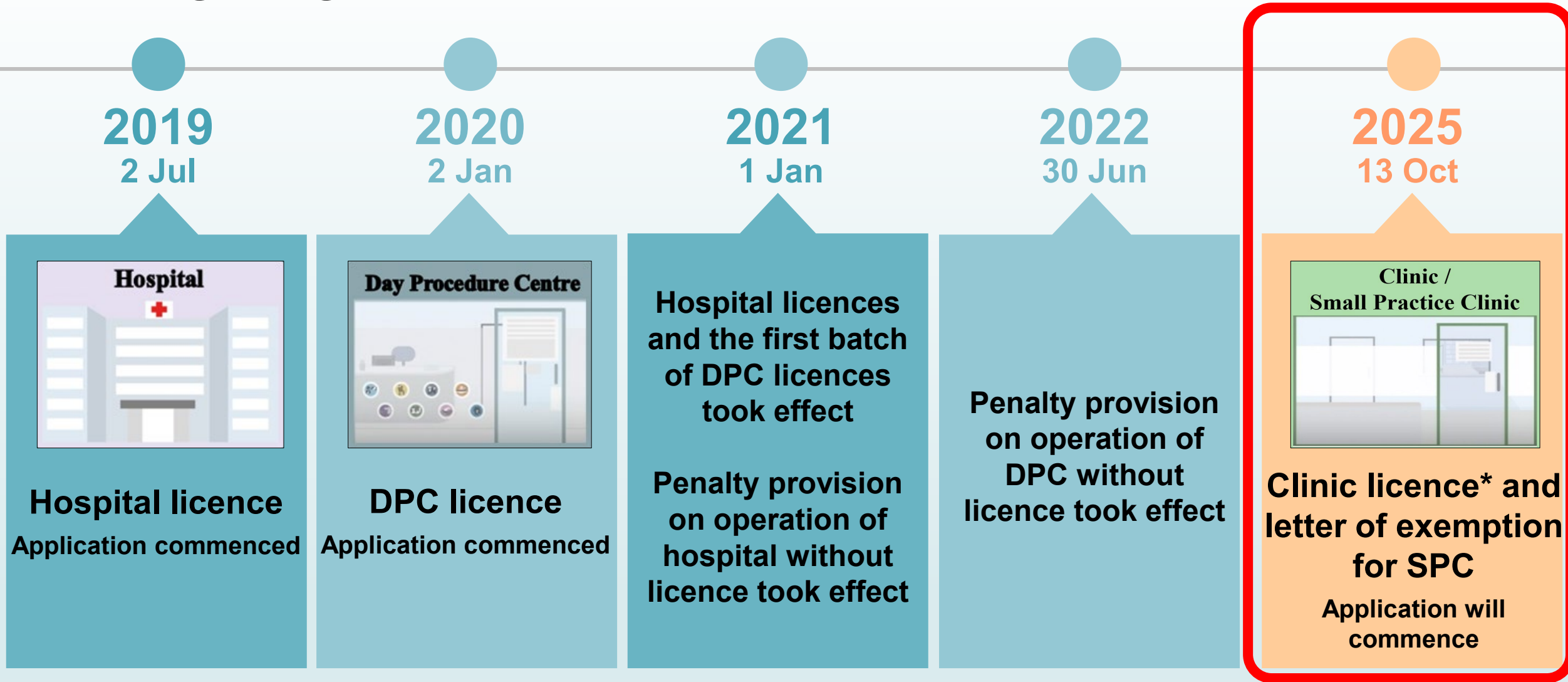
**1. Number of  
doctors or  
dentists**

**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 Start on  
**13 October 2025**

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

LEARN MORE

[www.orphf.gov.hk](http://www.orphf.gov.hk)

For enquiries:  
Tel: 3107 8451  
Email: [orphf@dh.gov.hk](mailto:orphf@dh.gov.hk)

For dental-related enquiries:  
Tel: 2631 1782  
Email: [drleo@dh.gov.hk](mailto:drleo@dh.gov.hk)

## Simple guide to the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance

Need to apply for Clinic  
Licence or request for Letter  
of Exemption for Small  
Practice Clinic

**NEW**  
Not meeting the conditions of "Small Practice  
Clinic", need to apply for **Clinic Licence**  
FAQ: [FAQ related to clinic licence](#)  
Standards: [Code of Practice for Clinics](#)  
Promotional materials: [PowerPoint](#), [Leaflet](#)  
Briefing sessions: [Briefing Sessions on Application  
for Clinic Licence and Letter of Exemption](#)

**NEW**  
Meeting the conditions of "Small Practice Clinic",  
may request for **Letter of Exemption**  
FAQ: [FAQ related to letter of exemption](#)  
Promotional materials: [PowerPoint](#), [Leaflet](#)  
Briefing sessions: [Briefing Sessions on Application  
for Clinic Licence and Letter of Exemption](#)



# 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 will commence on **13 October 2025**
- Other briefing sessions (For Clinics with Dental Practice)

Event	
Date	Description
Jun to Sep 25	<a href="#">Briefing Sessions on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic (For Clinics with Medical Practice).</a>
Jun to Sep 25	<a href="#">Briefing Sessions on Application for Clinic Licence and Request for Letter of Exemption for Small Practice Clinic (For Clinics with Dental Practice).</a>



Thank you

