

# Clinic

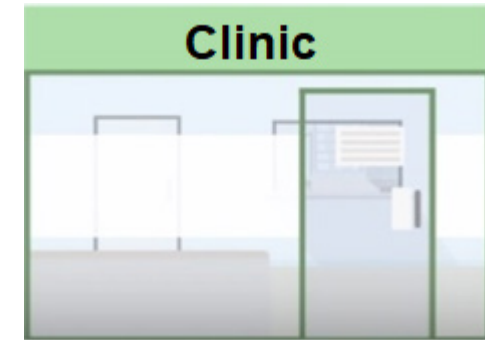
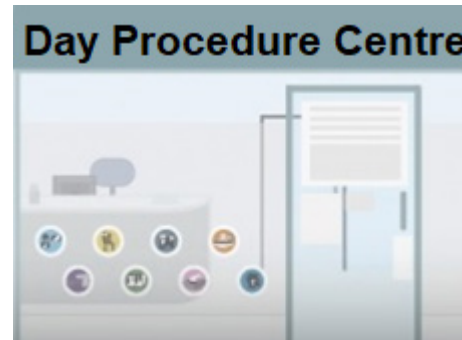
Office for Regulation of Private  
Healthcare Facilities  
Department of Health



# Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance

Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (PHFO)  
**passed in November 2018**

regulates private healthcare facilities, including but not limited to:



# Meaning of clinic



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



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



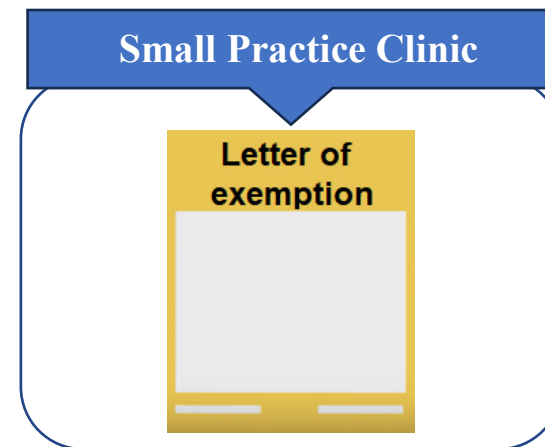
Cannot provide the **scheduled medical procedures** specified in the PHFO or the **hospital-only medical procedures** stipulated in the "Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres"





I am currently operating a clinic, do I need to apply for a licence?  
In what circumstances can I be exempted from applying for a licence?

If your facility meets the conditions of a **small practice clinic** under the PHFO, you may ask the Director of Health for a **letter of exemption**.



All other clinics, including the scheduled clinics listed in Schedule 6 to the PHFO, must apply for a **licence**.



? I want to apply for a licence, what preparations should be made?

Application for clinic licence begins on 13 October 2025.

Before you submit an application for a licence, you should refer to the PHFO, the “Code of Practice for Clinics” (CoP) and the “Guidance Notes for Application for Clinic Licence” published by the Department of Health.



? I am currently operating a clinic, but I haven't obtained a licence, can I continue to operate the clinic?

Under the PHFO, before the Secretary for Health announces the commencement of the penalty clauses by notice published in the Gazette, you may continue to operate the clinic.

We will announce the implementation of the relevant penalty clauses in due course.

In this connection, you should familiarise yourself with the PHFO and prepare to apply for a licence as early as possible, to ensure that your clinic is **licensed** before the **penalty clauses come into effect**.



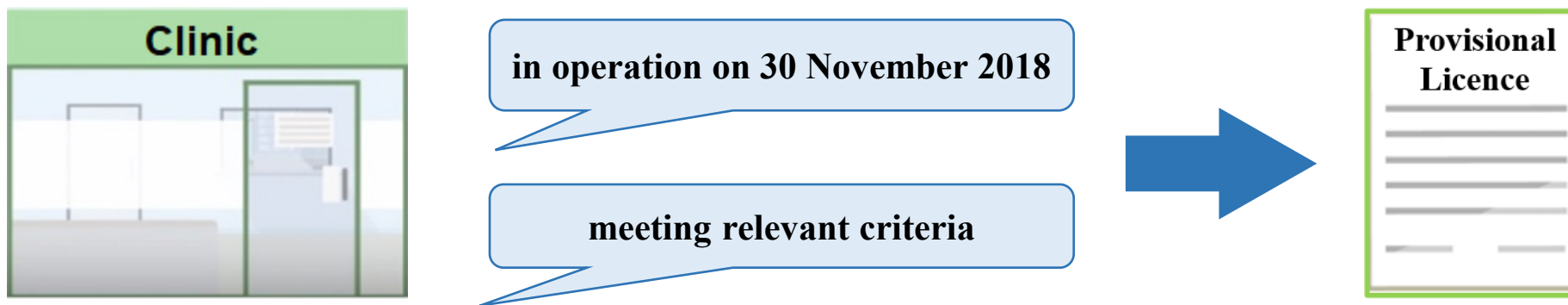


I am currently operating a clinic, but I haven't obtained a licence, can I continue to operate the clinic?

Furthermore, the PHFO provides **transitional arrangements** for clinics that have already been in operation on **30 November 2018**.

When the operator of such a clinic submits an application for a licence, the applicant will be issued a **provisional licence** subject to meeting relevant criteria.

Clinics issued with a provisional licence may continue to operate before they have obtained a full licence during the transitional period.



# What requirements should be fulfilled in order to obtain a provisional licence?

To be eligible for a provisional licence, you must submit an application for a licence from 13 October 2025 to 13 April 2026 and provide information to prove that your clinic has already been in operation at the address on 30 November 2018.

If your clinic only came into operation or has been relocated to any new premises after 30 November 2018, your clinic will need to apply for a full licence.



## When will the transitional arrangement expire?

The Secretary for Health will notify by notice published in the Gazette the date on which the transitional arrangement expires, after which the provisional licence is no longer valid.

In order to provide sufficient preparation time for the industry, the expiry date of the transitional arrangement will be at least one year after the date on which the notice is published.

For individual provisional licence, it will expire on the same date when the transitional arrangement expires, when a full licence is issued, or when the application is withdrawn or rejected.



# ? What are the responsibilities of the licensee of a clinic?

The **licensee** is **wholly responsible for** the operation of the clinic to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the PHFO, licence and CoP.



Furthermore, the licensee must appoint a chief medical executive (CME) for the clinic.






**registered medical practitioner or registered dentist  
registered in Hong Kong for  $\geq 4$  years**

**responsible for taking charge of the day to day  
administration of the clinic**

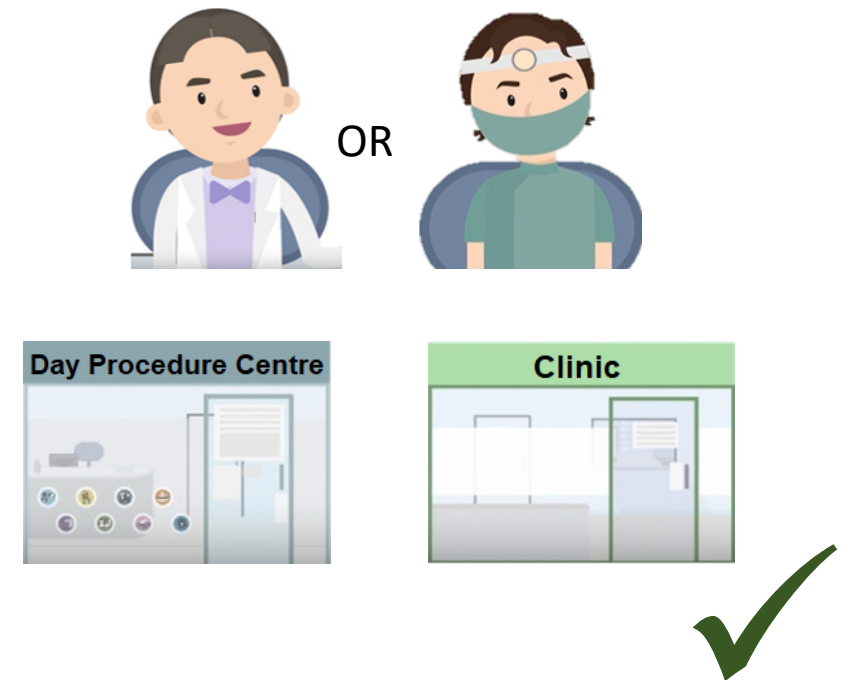
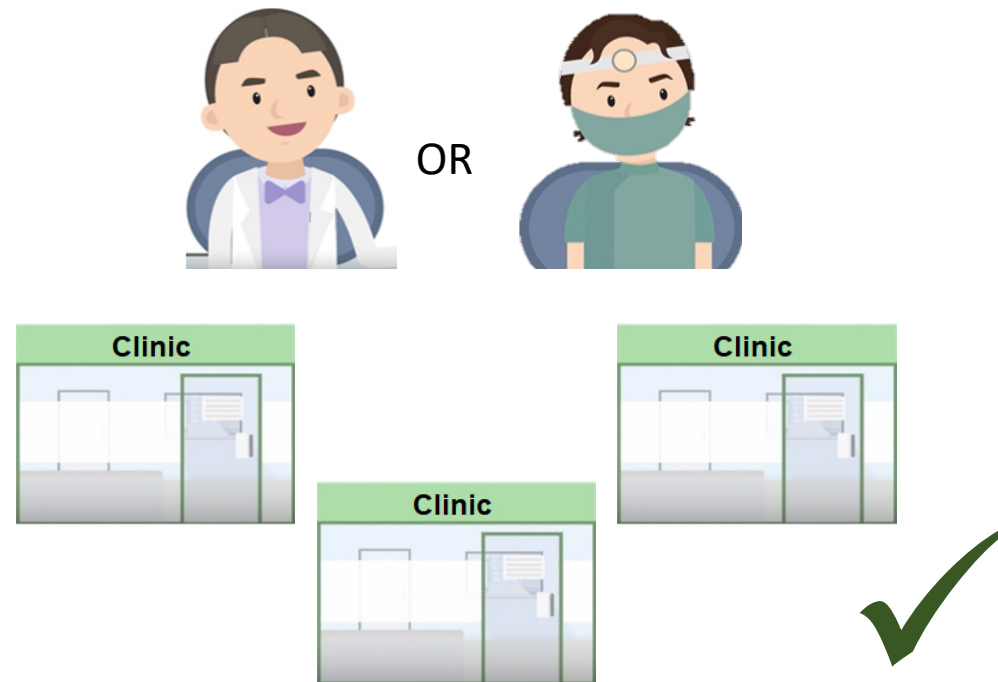
**adoption and implementation of the rules, policies  
and procedures concerning healthcare services  
provided in the clinic**



For a clinic with medical practice	the CME must be a registered medical practitioner 
If the clinic also provides dental practice	the licensee must also appoint a registered dentist to assist the CME (registered medical practitioner) in carrying out the day to day administration of the dental practice 
For a clinic with only dental practice	the CME must be a registered dentist 



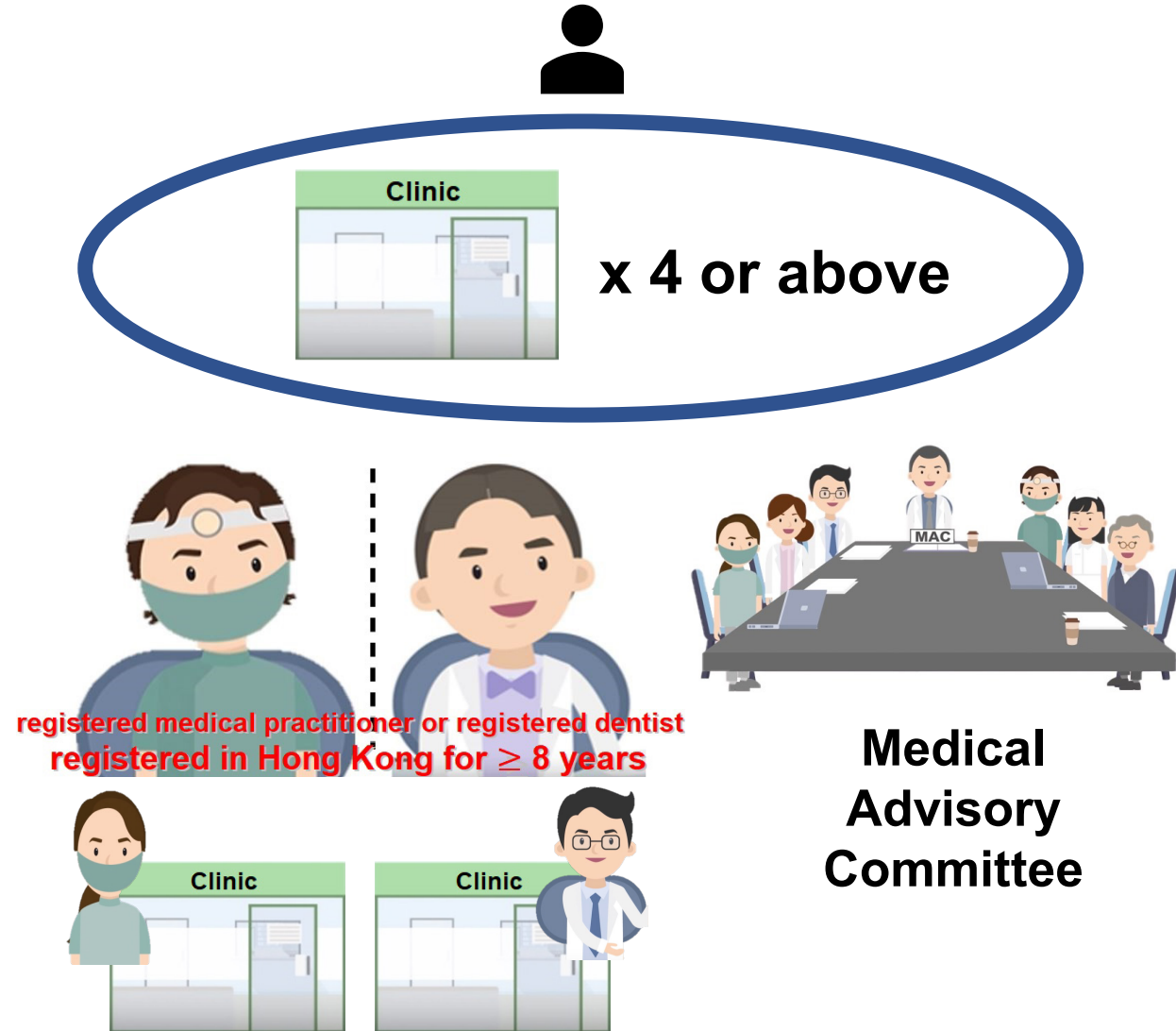
Furthermore, the CME of a clinic must not serve at the same time as the CME of a hospital, or of more than three clinics, or of more than one day procedure centre and one clinic.



## Exception:

If **four or more clinics** are operated at the same time by the same licensee, he/she may appoint **a single CME** for this group of clinics, provided that this appointed CME is a registered medical practitioner or a registered dentist who has been registered in Hong Kong for **not less than eight years**, and is not serving at the same time as the CME of another private healthcare facility.

Furthermore, the licensee has to establish a Medical Advisory Committee for this group of clinics, and appoint for each clinic in the group a registered medical practitioner or a registered dentist, who is serving at the clinic, to assist the CME in carrying out the day to day administration of the clinic.



Further details are available at [www.orphf.gov.hk](http://www.orphf.gov.hk)

