



本署檔號 Our Ref.: (27) in DH/ORPHF/18/25/22 Pt.3

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13 December 2021

Dear Doctor / Dentist,

Updates to Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities

We write to inform you of the following updates on the regulation of private healthcare facilities -

- (1) The penalty provision pertaining to the operation of a day procedure centre (DPC) without a licence under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) (the Ordinance) will come into effect **on 30 June 2022**, on or after which operation of a DPC without a licence will be an offence.
- (2) Major plexus block under anaesthetic procedure of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance is amended as in the Annex to clarify that major plexus block includes cervical plexus block. The amendment will come into effect on **1 January 2022**. Cervical plexus block, as a scheduled medical procedure, is required to be performed in a hospital or DPC.

The Ordinance, passed in November 2018, provides a new regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities. Under the Ordinance, operators of premises where registered medical practitioners and/or registered dentists practise, including (1) hospitals; (2) DPCs; and (3) clinics, are required to obtain either a licence or a letter of exemption from the Department of Health. The Ordinance is being implemented in phases. Applications for hospital and DPC licences have been accepted since July 2019 and January 2020 respectively. All hospital licences and the first batch of DPC licences have already come into effect from 1 January 2021. Commencement of clinic licence applications and requests for letters of exemption will be announced in due course.

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DPCs are ambulatory facilities that are used, or intended to be used, for carrying out scheduled medical procedures (as stipulated in Column 2 of Schedule 3 to the Ordinance) on patients without lodging. All DPCs are required to operate with a licence (either a provisional or full licence) and there is no exemption arrangement for DPCs under the Ordinance. With the commencement of the penalty provision pertaining to the operation of a DPC without a licence on 30 June 2022, any person operating a DPC without a licence will commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of HK\$100,000 and to imprisonment for three years.

Operators of DPCs who have yet to apply for a licence should do so as soon as practicable. Operators are required to comply with all the requirements under the Ordinance and the Code of Practice for Day Procedure Centres in order to obtain a licence. You are advised to apply for a licence through our electronic platform (apps.orphf.gov.hk/Submission/). Details of the regulatory regime including the list of scheduled medical procedures, licence application procedures and relevant documents can be accessed via the QR code below.

For enquiries, please contact us at 3107 8451 or visit our website at www.orphf.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr Addi CHAN)
for Director of Health



Regulatory regime
and licence application
<https://www.orphf.gov.hk/s/ljQxm>