



Hong Kong College of Paediatricians NEWSLETTER

October 1999

Editors: Drs Patricia Ip, Anselm Lee, Betty Young, Yu Chak Man

Published by the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
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From the Editors:

Dear Colleagues,

Your College Newsletter is now being published every 2 months. We hope to bring you more up-to-date and timely news.

We have received enquiries from some of you on training and membership. You will find their clarifications in this newsletter. If you want to know more about our College affairs, do contact any of the editors or committee members.

Recently our College's opinion has been sought regarding whether vaccines should be treated as over-the-counter drugs. As this issue seriously affects the welfare of our children and the community, our College has put forth a position paper which you will be able to read in the next few pages.

Our coming College AGM will be held in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building for the first time. Do come and support this College function and congratulate our new Fellows. We hope to see you all then.

College's views on Classification of Immunobiologics

Position paper of the College on "Classification of vaccines, toxoids, antivenoms and immunoglobulins"

Vaccines and venoms are currently not controlled nor prescription items. The Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, having reviewed trends elsewhere and the existing

controls on vaccines, recommended that all vaccines for human use should be classified as "prescription-only medicines". However, after further discussion, the Poisons Committee decided to put them as pharmacy items, i.e. to be sold at registered pharmacies and doctors' prescription is not required. The list in question consists of vaccines, toxoids, antivenoms and immunoglobulins.

Since many of these items are related to paediatric practice, the College thus appointed an expert panel to review this issue. After careful deliberation of the matter, the College holds the view that such products should be classified as "prescription-only" medicines and not "pharmacy-only" items. A position paper explaining our views and recommendation has been submitted to the Pharmacy and Poisons Board for consideration. Please refer to the full paper in appendix 1.

Trainer to Trainee Ratio

Following enquiries, it was resolved at the last Council Meeting, that the Core Programme of 2 years and 1 year flexible programme, no one single trainee should be exposed to the same trainer for more than 12 months during his/her Basic Training Programmes in Paediatrics.

IMPORTANT **8th Annual General Meeting**

Date: 4 December 1999
Time: 6:15 pm
Venue: Grand Hall,
The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Jockey Club Building

(Programme and reply note in appendix 2)

Overseas Higher Training

As higher trainees have to fulfill the requirement of 6 months training in another institution, whether local or overseas, the Accreditation Committee wishes to remind trainees and their training supervisors that the application has to be forwarded prospectively to the committee. The revised guidelines on application could be found in appendix 3.

Application for Associateship & Membership

Chiefs of Service & Training Supervisors are reminded to ensure that their trainees have applied for Associateship and Membership as soon as they are qualified. Their Basic and Higher Training will be recognized only if they are Associates and Members respectively of the College. Late applicants will be subjected to a penalty.

Overseas Membership & Fellowship

Colleagues who will be residing outside Hong Kong for a period of time will be interested to know the Membership Committee has recently clarified procedures for application of overseas membership and fellowship. Please refer to appendix 4 for details.

Welcome to New Associates & Members

New Associates:
Dr Chan Fung Ying
Dr Chan Kit
Dr Cheng Wai Tsoi, Frankie
Dr Cheuk Ka Leung
Dr Lam Shu Ting, Denise
Dr Lau Tung Wah
Dr Ting Yuk, Joseph

New Members:
Dr Chak Wai Kwong
Dr Chan Wai Hung
Dr Chan Yuk Chun
Dr Cheung Ka Ming
Dr Kong Chun Tat
Dr Lui Ying Shun
Dr Mok Chi Fung, Geoffrey

College Foundation

With your generosity, donations to our College Foundation have amounted to \$1.5 million. An Honours Presentation Ceremony will be held during the dinner after our coming AGM. Your continued support is essential as we envisage College expenses to increase. At present, we only have a part-time secretarial service in our College office. With the mounting complexity of College business to be attended to, this service would need to be expanded some time.

Other Announcements

To New Fellows:

Our coming AGM will take place in the Grand Hall of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Building. Join your Admission Ceremony in style! Twenty-four college gowns will be available for rent at \$200 on a first come first served basis. Do contact our College secretary, Christine (Tel: 28718871) early for booking.

HK Journal of Paediatrics

Our College president had signed an agreement together with the President of the HK Paediatric Society, the Chief Editor and the representative of Blackwell Mecom HK Ltd for Blackwell Medcom HK Ltd to be the publisher of the Hong Kong Journal of Paediatrics.

Publication on Child Protection

Copies of the July issue of "Bulletin on Child Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse" published by the Social Welfare Department are available at our College office. Please contact Christine if you are interested to get a copy.

Appendix 1

Views on Classification of Vaccines, Toxoids, Antitoxins, Antivenoms and Immunoglobulins for Human Use as “Prescription-only Medicines”

The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians welcome the review and recommendation by the Registration Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board to classify all vaccines, toxoids, antitoxins, antivenoms and immunoglobulins for human use as “prescription-only medicines”. However, we do not support the decision by the Poisons Committee of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board to classify these products into “pharmacy-only” medicines, instead of “prescription-only” medicines.

A close scrutiny of immunization practices in overseas countries revealed that vaccines are regulated as immunobiologics and strictly require prescription by registered doctors for dispensing and administration. The classification of vaccines as “**prescription-only medicines**” is standard in China, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and the United States, to mention but a few. It is universally recognized that immunization practices, including the sale of vaccines, are liable to potential harm and abuse if not properly regulated and monitored by physicians or health officials. Hence, the decision to classify vaccines as “pharmacy-only” medicines is totally unacceptable and distinctively in contrary to reputable practices elsewhere.

Benefits and risks are associated with the use of all immunobiologics. No vaccine is completely safe or effective. Vaccine components are well recognized to cause allergic or adverse reactions in some recipients. These reactions can be local or systemic, and can include mild to life-threatening anaphylaxis or anaphylactic-like responses. The potential side effects of the commonly used vaccines warrant medical assessment prior to their administration.

Apart from potential adverse events or vaccine injury, “**vaccination**” itself is not synonymous with “**immunization**”. Although these two terms are often used interchangeably by lay people, vaccination

only denotes the physical act of administering any vaccine or toxoid, whereas immunization is a more inclusive term denoting the process of successfully inducing or providing immunity artificially by administering an immunobiologic in an appropriate manner, i.e. following a strict **medical protocol**.

Successful immunization is never equivalent to the simple act of dispensing and then giving the shot. Likewise, the purchase of vaccines over-the-counter cannot be regarded as equivalent to the prevention of infectious diseases.

The entire process of immunization should be integrated with other preventive services as part of a comprehensive child healthcare programme. There are many issues for consideration in the implementation of a successful and effective immunization programme, including

- the choice of the type of vaccine compatible with the current recommended immunization schedule;
- the selection of the right product offering the best efficacy and least side-effects;
- the proper storage and handling in accordance with manufacturers’ specifications;
- an accurate and individualized assessment of the indications, precautions and contraindications on the use of vaccine;
- an opportunity for informing the vaccinees or their parents and guardians of the risks and benefits of a particular vaccine and answering all questions and concerns that may arise;
- the proper advice on the observation of adverse events and the likely time frame for their occurrence;
- the mechanism for monitoring and managing immediate reactions after proper administration;
- the recommendation of alternative solution and course of action for specific groups of recipients or special circumstances;
- the proper documentation and maintenance of immunization records;
- the advice on subsequent immunization schedule and the manner of follow-up; and finally
- the application of an organized practice-based programme with a tracking system capable of producing efficient reminders and recalls to avoid fragmentation of preventive care.

Thus, it is imperative that fully qualified healthcare providers be involved in overseeing the immunization process to assure strict adherence to the specifications as outlined above. The registered doctor is best qualified to fulfill the requirement for individualized pre-immunization screening and assessment preceding the prescription of a vaccine. Furthermore, establishment of the patient-doctor relationship will provide an opportunity for doctors to identify children for the required vaccines and administer appropriate immunizations in a timely fashion. The need for a doctor's prescription would provide the recipient of the chance for early intervention and avoid unnecessary or inappropriate immunizations.

Determination of the indications and contraindications of immunizations is often not straight forward. Healthcare providers, other than the medical professionals, often inappropriately consider certain conditions or circumstances to be true contraindications or precautions, thus needlessly deferring the required immunizations. They may blindly follow a schedule for general use which at times should be modified to suit individual needs. Alternatively, they may recommend vaccines which the recipients clearly do not need (e.g. already immune) or the administration of which can even be harmful (e.g. use of live vaccines to immunocompromised patients or healthy individuals with immunocompromised household contacts). Doctors are thus the best persons to ascertain an individual's immune status and recommend an appropriate schedule.

The sale of immunobiologics as "pharmacy-only" medicines is also subjected to misuse and abuse, such as self-injection of immunoglobulin by otherwise healthy individuals as a tonic for "boosting" immunity.

Inappropriate immunization by non-qualified personnel adds to vaccine failures, further undermining the effectiveness of infectious disease prevention. The most desirable immunization practice is one in which the decision to immunize is based on physician recommendation and performed under medical supervision, with medical follow-up if necessary.

As responsible healthcare professionals, we must uphold the standard practice of **"DO NO HARM"**. Our recommendation is straight forward and in line with worldwide trend and practices, i.e. ***vaccines and other immunobiologics must be classified as "prescription-only medicines" to safeguard the health of our community"***

Appendix 2

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

PROGRAMME

Date: 4th December 1999 (Saturday)

Venue: Grand Hall, The HK Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building,
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Programme:

6:15-6:30 pm	8th Annual General Meeting
6:30-7:00 pm	Procession & Admission of New Fellows
7:00-7:30 pm	Cocktail
7:30-9:30 pm	Dinner
	Honours Presentation Ceremony

REPLY

I will / will not* attend AGM

I / and my spouse will / will not* attend dinner (\$150 per person)

Enclosed is a cheque (No. _____) of \$150 / \$300 for dinner
(payable to "**Hong Kong College of Paediatricians**")

Name _____ (Fellow / Member / Associate)*

Name of Spouse _____

Address _____

Tel & Fax _____ Date _____

**delete as appropriate*

Please return to Professor LOW Chung-Kai, Louis, Honorary Secretary, c/o Rm. 808,
HKAM Jockey Club Bldg., 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong **before**
29th October, 1999.

Appendix 3

Guidelines on Overseas Higher Training Application

Amended on 28 July 1999

Trainees applying for accrediting their applications for overseas higher training are requested to follow the below listed guidelines:

- A Before Commencement of Overseas Training:
- (i) apply prospectively, at least three months in advance;
 - (ii) submit an application letter briefing the details (training centre, training period, training programme, duties during training, supervisor, etc) before the training starts;
 - (iii) submit the letter of acceptance and final training programme from the training centre before the training;
- B Upon Return after Overseas Training
- (i) submit a report within 3 months upon return from training;
 - (ii) submit log data (duly signed by the overseas supervisor, log sheet will be provided) within 3 months upon return from training;
 - (iii) submit local supervisor's evaluation and recommendation of accreditation 3 months after return;
 - (iv) submit summary of project and / or publication achieved during the training period overseas, if any.

Appendix 4

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians Overseas Membership and Fellowship

Eligibility, Rights and Responsibilities

1. Length of stay away from Hong Kong for a consecutive period of 2 or more years with documentary proof
2. 50% reduction in subscription fees
3. Must change back to local Membership or Fellowship upon return to Hong Kong for 3 months or more
4. Overseas Members and Fellows will have the right to receive journals of the College, newsletter and annual report; to use College facilities in HKAM and to attend College meetings during their visits to Hong Kong.
5. Overseas Members and Fellows have the right to vote.
6. They will not receive local correspondences.
7. Yearly submission of documentary proof of fulfillment of CME requirement in their country of residence is required. This requirement is subject to amendment when further guidelines on CME requirement are issued for overseas Fellows.

Procedure of Application

1. Write to the Hon. Secretary of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians indicating your wish to apply for Overseas Membership or Fellowship and supply independent supportive evidence of stay outside Hong Kong for a consecutive period of 2 years or more. Examples of such proofs are: landing proof, utility bills, employment certifications or certification by another Fellow of the College.
2. The application has to be accepted by the Membership Committee and endorsed by the Council.
3. The applicant will be informed of the result of application. The reduced subscription rate will apply from the next calendar year.

Category A Activities

October 1999		
15th Friday	Topic:	Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy - Case Presentation and Sharing of Experience
	Venue:	Lecture Theatre, Block M, G/F, QEH
	Time:	8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
CME Cat A 2 pts	Speakers:	Dr KY Yam, Dr L Kwong, Mrs B Yiu
	Organizer:	The HK Society of Child Neurology & Developmental Paediatrics
	Enquiry:	Dr W H Lau (Tel: 23771228, Fax: 23770792)
16th Saturday	Topic:	Update Series on Child Health Session IV 1. Learning problems 2. Update in Paediatric Surgery
	Venue:	Ballroom, 3/F., Sheraton Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui
	Time:	2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
	Speakers:	Dr Catherine Lam, Dr Kelvin Liu
CME Cat A 2 pts	Co-organizers:	1. The Hong Kong Paediatric Society 2. Department of Health
	Enquiry:	Dr KT So (Tel: 24685111, Fax: 24569111)
16-17th Saturday Sunday	Topic:	International Multidisciplinary Pediatric Symposium
	Venue:	Room 401, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
	Time:	16 th : 9:00 am - 5:50 pm 17 th : 9:00 am - 12:45 pm
	Speakers:	Dr Harvey Cohen, Dr Michael Harrison, Dr Larry Shapiro, Prof Maurice Leung, Dr Christopher Contag, Prof CY Yeung, Dr Betty Young, Dr Kenneth Cox, Dr George Van Hare, Prof Patrick Yuen
CME CAT A 9 pts	Co-organizers:	1. The North American Medical Association of HK 2. HK College of Paediatricians 3. The HK Paediatric Society
	Enquiry:	Ms Sandy Chung (Tel: 25278898, Fax: 28667530)
25th Monday	Topic:	Solid Tumour Transplant in Children
	Venue:	Block B, 1/F., Room 5, QEH
	Time:	6:00 pm - 7:15 pm
	Speaker:	Dr Finn Bo Petersen
CME Cat A 1 pt	Organizer:	HK Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Study Group
	Enquiry:	Dr CF Chan (Tel: 28554091, Fax: 28554849)
30th Saturday	Topic:	Joint Scientific Meeting
	Venue:	Lecture Theatre and Seminar Room 1, HA Building
	Time:	2:30 pm - 6:30 pm
	Speakers:	Prof Dennis Lo, Prof Kenneth Tsang, Prof KS Woo, Dr MC Chiu, Prof Tony Nelson, and others
CME Cat A 3 pt	Co-organizers:	1. HK College of Physicians 2. HK College of Paediatricians
	Enquiry:	Prof PC Ng (Tel: 26322851)

November 1999		
3rd Wednesday CME Cat A 2 pts	Topic: Venue: Time: Speakers: Organizer: Enquiry:	1. A difficult nephrotic patient 2. Introducing Critical Appraisal on Paediatric Nephrology Journals Room 603, Block G, Princess Margaret Hospital 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Dr Wong Sik Nin, Dr Yau Fai To Hong Kong Paediatric Nephrology Society Dr WM Lai (Tel: 29903757, Fax: 23703466)
13th Saturday CME Cat A 2 pts	Topic: Venue: Time: Speakers: Organizer: Enquiry:	Symposium on Core Blood Transplant Sheraton Hotel 2:15 pm - 4:30 pm Dr SY Ha, Dr Stella Davies and a representative from Red Cross Transfusion Services, Hong Kong Department of Paediatrics, The University of Hong Kong Dr SY Ha (Tel: 24685392, Fax: 24569111)
20th Saturday CME Cat A 6 pts	Topic: Venue: Time: Speakers: Co-organizers: Enquiry:	Workshop in Perinatal Medicine in Hong Kong 1999 Ballroom, 3/F, Sheraton Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Prof Victor Yu, Prof TN Leung, Prof PC Ng, Dr Robert Yuen, Ms SY Lee, Dr Mary Tang, Dr HY Tse, Dr KL Chan, Dr KY Wong, Dr HS Wong, Prof TF Fok, Dr B Lam 1. The Hong Kong Society of Neonatal Medicine 2. Obstetric & Gynaecological Society of Hong Kong Dr HB Chan (Tel: 23794000, Fax: 23470453)
25-27th Thursday- Saturday CME Cat A 18 pts	Topic: Venue: Time: Speakers: Co-organizers: Enquiry:	ISPCAN 5 th Asian Conference on Child Protection Sheraton Hotel 9:30 am – 5:30 pm Prof June Thoburn, Dr Danya Glaser, Mrs Patricia Chu, Dr Choi Yuen Wan and others 1. Social Welfare Department 2. Against Child Abuse 3. The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Ms Vera Yeung (Tel:25278898, Fax:28667530)

December 1999		
15th Wednesday CME Cat A 2 pts	Topic: Venue: Time: Speakers: Organizer: Enquiry:	1. Dietary Management in Paediatric Chronic Renal Failure 2. A rare glomerulonephritis - a presentation of 4 cases, histological evolution, outcome, and a review Room 604-5, Block G, PMH 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Ms Ivy Loy, Dr Chiu Wing Hong Kong Paediatric Nephrology Society Dr WM Lai (Tel: 29903757, Fax: 23703466)

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians (HKCPaed) Category B Activities

Approved Regular Continuing Medical Education (CME) Meetings (updated on 30.09.99)

<i>Name of Hospital/ Organizer</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>CME Points/ session</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	Lecture / Case presentation	Room 7, 7/F, Block E AHNH, 11, Chuen On Road, Taipo	Every Wednesday	2:30 - 3:30 pm	1	Dr Yam Ka Ling (2689 2286 Janet)	Note 2
Caritas Medical Centre	Seminar / Journal Club	Library Conf. Room, Wai Oi Block, 1/F	Every Friday	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Alex Chan (2310 7452 Angela)	
Child Assessment Centres	Journal/Clinical presentation	Hai Kwai Chung CAC 77 Lai Cho Road Hai Kwai Chung, N.T.	Second & fourth Friday each month	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Florence Lee (2246 6634 Carol)	Note 2
Genetic Counseling Unit	Journal Club	Clinic Genetic Service Center :(conference room)	Every Monday	9:00-10:00 am	1	Dr Stephen Lam (2304 2063 Margaret Wong)	Note 2
	Postgraduate seminar		Every Wednesday	9:00-10:00 am	1		
Grantham Hospital	Lecture/Cardiac conference	Lecture theatre, G/F Kwok Tak Seng Center Grantham Hospital	Every Friday	9:30-10:30 am	1	Dr Yung Tak Cheung (2518 2629 Anna)	
Kwong Wah Hospital	Clinical presentation/ Journal Club	Lecture Room,1/F Nurses' Quarters Kwong Wah Hosp	Every Thursday	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Robert Yuen (2781 5055 Annie/ Janet)	
	Basic paediatric tutorials		Alternate Friday	8:00-9:00 am	1		
North District Hospital	Journal Club	Lecture Rm 1, 1/F North District Hosp	2 nd & 4 th Friday	12:00-1:00 pm	1	Dr Wong Tak Wai (26837578 Secretary)	
	CME meeting		Every Thursday	2:30-3:30 pm	1		
NTS Cluster Hospitals	NTS Cluster Paediatric Clinical Meeting	PMH, CMC, YCH in rotation (please enquire for each meeting)	Third Wednesday of each month	1:00-2:00 pm	1	Dr Leung Chi Wai (29903402 Julie)	
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	Journal Club/ topic discussion	Conference Room, D6 ward, PYNEH	Every Wednesday	1:30-2:30 pm	1	Dr So Lok Yee (2595 6409 Lisa Chim; 2595 6410 Stella Wong)	
	X-ray meeting	Conference room, Dept of Diagnostic Radiology, Main Blk	Last Friday of each month	1:00-2:00 pm	1		
Prince of Wales Hospital	Journal Club	Seminar Room, 6/F Clinical Science Building, PWH	Every Monday (except 3 rd Monday of even month)	1:00-2:00 pm	1	Dr Rita Sung (2632 2849 Florence)	

Hong Kong College of Paediatricians (HKCPaed) Category B Activities (Continued)

Approved Regular Continuing Medical Education (CME) Meetings (updated on 30.09.99)

<i>Name of Hospital/ Organiser</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>CME Points/ session</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Prince of Wales Hospital	Clinical Meeting	Seminar Room, 6/F Clinical Science Building, PWH	Every Tuesday (except last Tuesday of each month)	2:15-4:00 pm	1	Dr Rita Sung (2632 2849 Florence)	
Princess Margaret Hospital	Update/ clinical presentation	Room 615, Block G, PMH	Every Monday	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Chan Kwok Yin (2990 3757 Julie)	
	Journal Club	Room 604-605, Block G, PMH	Every Thursday	12:45-2:00 pm	1		
Private Practising Paediatricians Study Group	Paediatric Updates/ Lectures	Banquet Suite Eaton Hotel, 2/F 380 Nathan Road	Second Friday of each month (or if it is PH, the following Friday)	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Cheng Chun Fai (2385 5655)	Note 2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Seminar/ Journal Club	M4 Library Discussion Room	Every Monday	12:00 noon-1 pm	1	Dr Shirley Ho (2958 6741 Elena)	
	Grand Round	A Ground Seminar Room	Every Wednesday	12:45-2:00 pm	1		
Queen Mary Hospital	Journal Club	Seminar Room Paediatric Department	Every Monday	12:30-2:00 pm	1	Dr Louis Low (2855 4091 Jessica)	
	Grand Round	1/F New Clinical Building QMH	Every Thursday	8:30-9:30 am	1		
Tuen Mun Hospital	Topic review/ Case presentation	Seminar Room AB1038, 1/F Main Block TMH	Every Tuesday	2:00-3:00 pm	1	Dr Wong Sik Nin (2468 5392 Johanna)	Note 2
United Christian Hospital	X-ray meeting	Radiology Dept. Block S, B1, UCH	Every Wednesday	8:30-9:30 am	1	Dr V K Sugunan (2379 4861 Carmen Chui)	Note 2
	Journal presentation / Topics	Seminar Room 3/F Block S, UCH	Every Thursday	2:15-3:15 pm	1		
Yan Chai Hospital	Grand Round	B12N & B12S ward 12/F, Block B, YCH	Every Monday	11:30 am - 12:30 pm	1	Dr Huen Kwai Fun (2417 8358 Rachel Yeung)	
	Case Presentation/ Journal Club & Review Topic	Conference Room 1, 3/F, Block B, YCH	Every Thursday	1:00-2:00 pm	1		

Notes: 1. To be advised by contact person; 2. Prior registration essential