

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (Chapter 161)

ORDER MADE BY THE INQUIRY PANEL OF  
THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

DR WONG KEVIN KA MING (REGISTRATION NO.: M10602)

It is hereby notified that after due inquiry held on 24 February 2023 in accordance with section 21 of the Medical Registration Ordinance, Chapter 161 of the Laws of Hong Kong, the Inquiry Panel of the Medical Council of Hong Kong ('Inquiry Panel') found Dr WONG Kevin Ka Ming (Registration No.: M10602) guilty of the following disciplinary charge:—

*'That in or about May 2021, he, being a registered medical practitioner, sanctioned, acquiesced in or failed to take adequate steps to prevent the use of title(s) of "clinical oncologist" and/or "臨床腫瘤醫生" in the website of (<http://www.oncare.com.hk>), which were misleading to the public that he was a specialist in clinical oncology, when in fact he has not been approved by the Medical Council of Hong Kong to have his name included in the Specialist Register under the specialty of "Clinical Oncology".'*

*In relation to the facts alleged, he has been guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.'*

2. The name of Dr WONG Kevin Ka Ming ('Dr WONG') has been included in the General Register from 15 May 1996 to the present and his name has never been included in the Specialist Register.
3. Briefly stated, by a letter dated 26 October 2021, the Hong Kong College of Radiologists complained to the Medical Council (the 'Council') that Dr WONG's name was listed under the specialty of Clinical Oncology in the practice website of OnCare Hong Kong ('OnCare').
4. Attached to the complaint letter was a printout of the webpage of the OnCare Cancer Center Team in the practice website of OnCare at (<http://www.oncare.com.hk>), which formed the subject of the disciplinary charge against Dr WONG.
5. A copy of the said printout was placed by the Legal Officer before the Inquiry Panel for consideration and the material parts read as follows:—

***'OnCare Team—OnCare Cancer Center Team***

*OnCare Cancer Centers for the care and treatment of cancer allows us to bring together a team of professionals who will work to treat your cancer. Each member of our team plays a special role in your care. Some of the members work directly with you, while some members do not deal directly with you but are still vital to your treatment. Your health and comfort are very important to us. We have a well-trained staff available to meet your needs and to help you with any problems, questions, or concerns that you might have about your illness and care.*

...

***Clinical Oncologist***

*Clinical Oncologists are focused on providing radiation therapy, in keeping with the overall treatment plan. Medical and clinical oncologists often work in partnership together, and clinical oncology covers both the therapeutic administration of ionizing radiation (radiotherapy) and cytotoxic chemotherapy.*

*(Dr. Kevin Wong and Dr... are clinical oncologists: please refer to Our Doctors for detail introduction)...'*

6. The Secretary of the Council (the 'Secretary') also downloaded from the practice website of OnCare and printed out the Chinese version of the webpage of the OnCare Cancer Center Team. A copy of the same was placed by the Legal Officer before the Inquiry Panel for consideration.
7. The Chinese version of the webpage of the OnCare Cancer Center Team was a direct translation of its English counterpart and Dr WONG's name was listed in the webpage under '臨床腫瘤醫生'.
8. The Secretary further accessed to the hyperlink '*Our Doctors*' in the website of OnCare and printed out the profile of Dr WONG. A copy of the same was placed by the Legal Officer before the Inquiry Panel for consideration and the material parts read as follows:—

***'Dr. Kevin K.M. Wong—OnCare Cancer Center Doctors***

***Dr. Kevin Wong, MBBS (Syd.), FRACR***

*Dr. Kevin Wong graduated from the Medical School of Sydney University Australia. He commenced his Radiation Oncology training at the Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney and finished at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute Melbourne where he became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Radiologists. Dr. Wong was subsequently appointed Consultant and worked in the Head and Neck as well as Gastrointestinal units.*

*He relocated to Hong Kong in 2002 to take up the position of Oncology-in-charge with St. Teresa's Hospital Cancer Center. Dr. Wong left in 2005 to join AmMed Cancer Center and now continues his practice at OnCare Hong Kong. He is a member of numerous professional bodies including Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology (CSCO) and Hong Kong Society of Clinical Oncology.'*

9. Dr WONG admitted that he failed to take adequate steps to prevent the use of title(s) of 'clinical oncologist' and/or '臨床腫瘤醫生' in the website of (<http://www.oncare.com.hk>), which were misleading to the public that he was a specialist in clinical oncology, when in fact he has not been approved by the Medical Council of Hong Kong to have his name included in the Specialist Register under the specialty of 'Clinical Oncology'.

10. There was no dispute that Dr WONG's name had never been included in the Specialist Register, let alone under the specialty of 'Clinical Oncology'.

11. The Inquiry Panel opined that the use of the title 'Clinical Oncologist' in the webpage of the 'OnCare Cancer Center Team' in the practice website of OnCare implied that Dr WONG was a specialist in Clinical Oncology but when in fact he had not been approved by the Council to have his name included in the Specialist Register under the specialty of 'Clinical Oncology'.

12. The Inquiry Panel quoted from the Court of Appeal's decision of *Ng Kin Wai v The Dental Council of Hong Kong* (CACV 194/2010) 14 October 2011 and emphasized that '*[p]rofessional titles are important and members of the public are likely to rely on the expertise implied by those titles in choosing a dentist and submitting themselves to treatment by that dentist.'*

13. Also, the Inquiry Panel considered that the use of the titles 'Clinical Oncologist' and '臨床腫瘤醫生' in the webpage of the 'OnCare Cancer Center Team' in the practice website of OnCare would serve to promote the professional advantage of Dr WONG, and was no doubt a form of unauthorized practice promotion.

14. It is clearly stated in paragraph 5.2.3.5 of the 2016 edition of the Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code') that the practice website of a medical practice group to which a doctor belongs '*... may carry only the service information which is permitted on doctors directories under section 5.2.3.7. The same rules on doctors directories in electronic format also apply to practice websites...*'

15. A doctor has a personal responsibility to ensure that the service information about him in the practice website of a medical practice group to which he belongs is in compliance with the Code. In this connection, section 7.1 of the Code specifically provides that '*[o]nly doctors on the Specialist Register are recognized as specialists, and can use the title of "specialist in a specialty"...*'

16. Whilst doctors may be categorized as specialist practitioners on the practice website of a medical practice group but their names must actually be registered under the relevant specialties in the Specialist Register or they will be in breach of section 7.2 of the Code which expressly prohibits the use of '*any misleading description or title implying specialization in a particular area (irrespective of whether it is a recognized specialty).'*'

17. In failing to take adequate steps to prevent the use of the title(s) of 'clinical oncologist' and '臨床腫瘤醫生' in the website of OnCare, the Inquiry Panel was satisfied on the evidence that Dr WONG had by his conduct in the present case fallen below the standards expected amongst registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong and the Inquiry Panel found him guilty of professional misconduct as charged.

18. Having considered the nature and gravity of the disciplinary charge for which Dr WONG was found guilty and what was heard and read in mitigation, the Inquiry Panel ordered that Dr WONG's name be removed from the General Register for a period of 1 month and the operation of the removal order be suspended for a period of 12 months.

19. The orders are published in the *Gazette* in accordance with section 21(5) of the Medical Registration Ordinance. The full decision of the Inquiry Panel of the Medical Council is published in the official website of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (<http://www.mchk.org.hk>).

LAU Wan-ye, Joseph *Chairman, The Medical Council of Hong Kong*