Dear Doctors,

Training Funding Scheme for Primary Care Doctors to Support Primary Healthcare Development in Hong Kong

The Government is committed to the development of primary healthcare in Hong Kong through enhancing district-based primary healthcare services. The first District Health Centre (DHC) was set up by the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) in Kwai Tsing since September 2019 aims to provide primary healthcare services through medical-social collaboration and public-private partnership, so as to enhance the public’s capability in self-management of health and provide support for the chronically ill. The Government will proactively take forward the setting up of DHC in all 18 districts with an aim to establish six full-fledged DHCs and set up smaller interim “DHC Express” in each of the remaining 11 districts before June 2022.

Primary care doctors, as the main provider of primary care, play a pivotal role in providing comprehensive, continuous and whole person care to the public ranging from prevention to treatment of diseases. To encourage continuing education and training in primary care to support the territory-wide rollout of DHC, the Government provides doctors
with subsidies for attending the Certificate Course in Essential Family Medicine (CCEFM) and the Diploma Course in Family Medicine (DFM) organized by the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP). CCEFM and DFM cover the essential knowledge and skills for quality care of primary care doctors, the principles of multi-disciplinary care and coordinated healthcare services across different levels and sectors within and beyond the health sectors to cater the health needs of individual in the community.

The CCEFM and the DFM for 2021-22 will commence in August 2021 and are now open for application. For details, please refer Annexes A and B respectively or HKCFP website www.hkcfp.org.hk. Registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong who are awarded the certificate of CCEFM or DFM by HKCFP may apply to FHB for reimbursement of $5,500 within 6 months of award. The final approval of the reimbursement is at the discretion of the Government. For details, please refer https://www.dhc.gov.hk/en/healthcare_service_providers.html#training-subsidy.

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us at 2205 2470 or by email at pho@fhb.gov.hk. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

( Dr Cissy CHOI )
for Secretary for Food and Health
The HKCFP Certificate Course in Essential Family Medicine (CCEFM) is designed to meet the training needs of practicing primary care doctors who would like to refresh or update their clinical knowledge and skills relevant to Family Medicine practice. The curriculum of this course also forms part of the well-established HKCFP Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM) course. Our teaching faculty are experienced clinicians working in primary care, in secondary care and in academia. The course has been designed to enhance the course participants’ competencies in daily Family Medicine practice in the community.

1. OBJECTIVES:
   i. To provide knowledgeable, pragmatic and structured training in Family Medicine for medical practitioners
   ii. To encourage professional development of practising medical practitioners
   iii. To improve standards and quality in Family Medicine practice by adopting holistic patient-centered care via an integrated care approach

2. SYLLABUS:
   The CCEFM consists of three segments, including Modules III, IV (FM attachment + Update) and parts of Module V in the Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM). Doctors who have graduated from the CCEFM are expected to have acquired the following essential concepts and course contents:
   i. The role of Family Doctors and in providing cost-effective primary care to the community
   ii. The essential knowledge and skills on common problems encountered in Family Medicine
   iii. Enhancement in the consultation and problem solving skills
   iv. Acquiring the knowledge and skills in common practice procedures related to Family practice

3. AWARDS/CREDITS:
   i. After completion of all the components and course requirements (max. within two years), a certificate will be awarded to the successful candidates
   ii. The completed modules and credits can be accredited towards the quasitable HKCFP DFM course, if the candidates would like to enroll into DFM course subsequently.
   iii. 25 CME and 5 CPO credit points will also be awarded by HKCFP.

4. COURSE CONTENT:
   **Segment I - Essentials of Family Medicine (Structured Seminars)**
   Objectives:
   1. Strengthen knowledge in Family Medicine
   2. Understand the potential growth of Family Medicine
   3. Enable the evidence-based Family Medicine practice
   Contents:
   Anticipatory Care, Elderly Care and related issues, Chronic Disease Management, Common Musculoskeletal Problems, Evidence Based Medicine & Critical Appraisal, Mental Health, Practice Management, and Clinical Audit, Research & Teaching in Family Medicine.

   **Segment II - Problem Solving and Clinical Updates**
   Objectives:
   1. Acquire in-depth knowledge by clinical scenarios/stimulated cases in our daily Family Medicine practice
   2. Transfer the practical skills and hand-on experience by interactive learning methods led by Family Medicine Fellows
   Contents:
   A site visit plus scenario-based training including Diagnostic Challenges on Common Symptoms, Problem-based Learning on Chronic Disease, Motivational Interviewing, Child Health, Women’s Health, Aging and End-of-Life and Common Musculoskeletal Problems.

   **Segment III - Practical Family Medicine (Practical Workshops)**
   Objectives:
   1. Enhance practical and communication skills in Family Medicine by practical workshops in selected areas
   2. Transfer the practical skills and hand-on experience by interactive learning methods led by Family Medicine Fellows
   Contents:
   Consultation Skills and Orthopaedics Injection

5. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

6. TEACHING STAFF:

7. TEACHING MEDIUM:
   English (Cantonese may be used in some sessions in the course)

8. COURSE FEES:
   **Administrative Fee for Application**
   HK$1,000

   **Enrol for the complete Certificate Course**
   HK$22,000 for members
   HK$44,000 for non-members

   **Enrol for individual session**
   Single Session from Segment I and Segment II:
   HK$1,700 for members
   HK$3,400 for non-members

   Single Session from Segment III:
   HK$2,200 for members
   HK$4,400 for non-members

   All fees must be paid upon application and before commencement of the course. ALL FEES PAID ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE.

9. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:
   Application is now open.

   A completed application form must be returned to The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians with the following:
   i. Photocopy of the current Annual Practicing Certificate.
   ii. A recent photo of the applicant (passport size).
   iii. A signed "Disclaimer of Liability".
   iv. An administration fee for application of HK$1,000 by crossed cheque payable to "HKCFP Holdings and Development Limited". This fee is non-refundable.
   v. A Course Fee in appropriate amount by crossed cheque payable to "HKCFP Holdings and Development Limited". This fee is non-transferable and non-refundable.

   Successful applicants will be notified by official letter of admission after the application deadline.

   Information and application forms can be obtained from the College or can be downloaded from the College Website (http://www.hkcfp.org.hk). Please contact the College secretariat, Ms. Akly Yu at 2871 8999 for any queries.

   Application Deadline: 30 June 2021

*Course syllabus and schedule may be subject to change without prior notification*
Diploma in Family Medicine (HKCFP) 2021 - 2022

The Board is pleased to announce that the Diploma Course in Family Medicine (DFM) organized by The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians will commence in July 2021. The course consists of FIVE modules. Modules I & II will be delivered by Local Distance Learning. Modules III, IV & V consist of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops and clinical attachments. The whole course requires ONE year of part-time study.

Details of the course are as follows:

1. Objectives:
   i) To provide knowledgeable, pragmatic and structured teaching in Family Medicine for medical practitioners
   ii) To encourage professional development of practising medical practitioners and to provide an intermediate step to fellowship qualifications in Family Medicine
   iii) To improve standards and quality in the practice of Family Medicine

2. Syllabus:
The course consists of FIVE compulsory modules. Doctors who have graduated from the course are expected to have acquired:
   i) Current concepts about nature of Family Medicine
   ii) Knowledge and skills in consultation, counselling and problem solving
   iii) Knowledge and skills in common practice procedures and emergency care required for good quality family practice
   iv) Understandings towards the role of Family Doctors as gatekeepers of the health-care system and in providing cost-effective primary care to the community

Module I – Principles of Family Medicine (Distance Learning)

Aims:
1. Learn concepts of Family Medicine
2. Understand the role of a Family Doctor and scope of Family Medicine

Contents:
Definition of Family Physicians, Family Physicians’ Functions, Core Values of Family Medicine, Consultation, Future of Family Medicine

Module II – Common Problems in Family Medicine (Distance Learning)

Aims:
1. Enhance consultation, communication and problem solving skills
2. Understand the diagnostic formulation process in Family Medicine

Contents:
Four clinical scenarios. Each clinical scenario is further divided into several questions covering different areas in general practice

Module III – Essentials of Family Medicine (Structured Seminars and Tutorials)

Aims:
1. Strengthen knowledge in Family Medicine
2. Understand the potential growth of Family Medicine
3. Develop research and teaching skills in Family Medicine

Contents:
Practice Management, Care of Elderly, Chronic Disease Management, Anticipatory Care, Clinical Audit & Research, Mental Health, Musculo-skeletal Problems, Evidence Based Medicine & Critical Appraisal

Module IV – Clinical Updates I (Updates and Clinical Attachment)

Aims:
Acquire in-depth knowledge and practical skills in selected specialties

Contents:
THREE update seminars plus ONE attachment in selected specialty

Module V – Practical Family Medicine (Practical Workshops)

Aims:
Enhance practical and communication skills in Family Medicine by Practical Workshops in selected areas including CPR, Consultation Skills, Counselling Skills, Women’s Health, Orthopaedic Injections and Musculo-Skeletal Medicine

Contents:
Four compulsory and two elective Practical Workshops in selected areas including Advanced Primary Care Life Support (APCCLS), Consultation Skills, Counselling Skills, Women’s Health, Orthopaedic Injections and Musculo-Skeletal Medicine

*Modules IV, V and VI would be scheduled on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

3. Articulations:
The Course allows (up to a fixed maximum percentage of the Course units) articulations or cross recognition of previous Family Medicine training programmes that provide learning units equivalent to that of the above syllabus. Participants who wish to apply for such articulations have to submit evidence of relevant training together with their applications. The granting of articulations is however, completely at the discretion and decision of the Board of DFM.

4. Schedule:
The whole course requires ONE year of part-time study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Module</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July to September</td>
<td>Module I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August to November</td>
<td>Module II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2023 to May</td>
<td>Module III, IV &amp; V</td>
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<tr>
<td>April / May 2022</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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</tbody>
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*The schedule might be affected due to unexpected circumstances and the format might change to online platform if necessary. Announcement would further be made in case there is a change of schedule and/or format.

5. Admission Requirement:
Medical Practitioner with Bachelor’s Degree in Medicine.

6. Teaching Staff:
A panel of experienced academic medical professionals in Family Medicine, hospital specialists and experienced Fellows or Trainers of HKCFP will be invited to teach in the programme.
7. Teaching Medium:
   English
   (Cantonese may be used in some seminars, workshops and clinical attachments)

8. Course Fees:
   **Whole Course**
   Administration fee for application: HK$1,000
   HK$38,000 for members of HKCFP
   HK$39,000 for non-members

   **[A discount of HK$5,000 for early bird applications on or before 31 May 2021]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Modules</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Non-members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module I (Distance Learning - Principles of Family Medicine)</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$9,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module II (Distance Learning - Common Problems in Family Medicine)</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$9,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module III (Structured Lectures &amp; Seminars)</td>
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<td>$9,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module IV (Updates &amp; Clinical Attachment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module V (Practical Workshops)</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
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<td>$23,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Fee</td>
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<td>$10,000</td>
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All fees must be paid upon application and before commencement of the course. Fees paid are NON-TRANSFERABLE and NON-REFUNDABLE.

9. Awards/Credits:
   i. A Diploma in Family Medicine issued by HKCFP will be awarded to candidates who have satisfied all the requirements and have passed all the required assessments and the Final Examination.
   ii. The Diploma is a Qualifying Qualification of the Medical Council of Hong Kong.
   iii. Up to 50 CME and 10 CPD credit points will also be awarded to candidates upon satisfactory completion of the Course by the QA & A Committee of HKCFP.

10. Application Procedure:
    Applications are now open.

    A completed application form must be returned to The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians with the following:
    i. Photocopy of the current Annual Practising Certificate;
    ii. A recent photo of the applicant (passport size);
    iii. A signed "Disclaimer of Liability";
    iv. An administration fee for application of HK$1,000 by crossed cheque payable to "HKCFP Holdings and Development Limited". This fee is non-refundable;
    v. A Course Fee of HK$38,000 (HK$39,000 for non-members) by crossed cheque payable to "HKCFP Holdings and Development Limited". This fee is non-transferable and non-refundable.

    Every successful applicant will be notified by an official letter of admission.

    Information and application forms can be obtained from the College or can be downloaded at the College website (http://www.hkcfp.org.hk).

    Members who were not admitted in the course in 2020 have to send in their application again if they want to study the course this year. Please contact the College secretariat, Ms. Alky Yu at 2871 8899 for any queries.

11. Application Deadline: 30 June 2021

    **Comments From Former DFM Graduates**
    - "The Content is useful in daily practice. I can have hands-on practical skills. I can polish my communication skills during the lectures & workshops."
    - "I can understand the role of Family Physicians as gatekeepers of health-care system and better know about their role in the society. I also acquire the skills on critical appraisal."
    - "There are sessions of clinical updates for updating knowledge. Module I, II & III could help improve my knowledge. Module I, II & III could improve my understanding of Family Medicine. The sessions in consultation are invaluable in improving my communication skills."

   *Course syllabus and schedule may be subject to change without prior notification