



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

MH 78:44/1

MOH Circular No. 29/2024

22 April 2024

Outpatient Dental Service Licensees  
Registered Dentists

## **ISSUANCE OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOLLOWING THE PROVISION OF OUTPATIENT DENTAL SERVICE**

This circular seeks feedback on a proposed new regulation under the Healthcare Services Act (HCSA) General Regulations pertaining to Medical Certificates (MCs) by the Ministry of Health.

### **Proposed Regulation on Medical Certifications under HCSA**

2. MCs are medico-legal documents which carry professional and legal implications. In accordance with Section 5.1.8 of the Singapore Dental Council (SDC)'s Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) 2018, dentists "must sign the certificate personally and if another person has filled in the details on his/her behalf, he/she must satisfy himself/herself that the details are correct before signing". Accordingly, this signature should be accompanied by the dentist's name and dental council registration (DCR) number. This is for the purpose of accountability and can assist the relevant parties requesting for the MC in verifying that the MC is valid, particularly as electronic-MCs may carry further risk of being a potential fake.

3. Given the above, the Ministry intends to impose a Regulation on all licensees to ensure that every MC issued for a patient must include the name and DCR number of the issuing dentist. In other words, the onus is also on the licensee to ensure it puts in place appropriate processes and protocols for the dental practitioners to ensure that MCs issued contain their names and DCR numbers, such as through training or system specifications when issuing the MCs. Any licensees found advertising or allowing the practice that the issuance of MCs under their approved services could be "anonymised" will be in breach of this proposed requirement.

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4. The Ministry is seeking feedback on this new requirement under the HCSA (appended below) and would appreciate any feedback to be submitted to [HCSA\\_Enquiries@moh.gov.sg](mailto:HCSA_Enquiries@moh.gov.sg) by **20 May 2024**.

**Proposed Regulations in Healthcare Services (General) Regulations 2021**

Issue of medical certificates

- (1) A licensee must ensure that every medical certificate that is issued in respect of a patient of the licensee —
- (a) is issued by a personnel of the licensee who —
    - (i) is a medical practitioner or dentist; and
    - (ii) had provided medical or dental care (as the case may be) to the patient; and
  - (b) states the name and medical or dental council registration number of the medical practitioner or dentist who issued the medical certificate.



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