

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS BOARD
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TO ALL REGISTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

Use of titles and descriptions by registered physiotherapists

This letter serves to remind you of the current rules governing the use of titles, qualifications and other descriptions by registered physiotherapists and the serious consequences of non-compliance.

The requirement for regulating the use of titles, qualifications and descriptions is to prevent the public from being misled and to ensure that only descriptions which will properly facilitate the public in making an informed choice will be quoted in connection with a physiotherapist's professional practice. The approved titles, qualifications and descriptions are set out in Part III of the Code of Practice which is available in the Board's website (http://www.smp-council.org.hk/pt/english/index_code.htm). Some of the relevant provisions are extracted below -

(a) Section 6 'Advertising'

- (i) The only particulars which may appear on signboards are -
- (1) the name of the registered physiotherapist (or the name by which the practice is known), in Chinese and English;
 - (2) the term 'registered physiotherapist';
 - (3) qualifications recognized by the Board in the approved Chinese and English abbreviated forms;
 - (4) an indication of the situation in the building of the physiotherapist's office;
and
 - (5) the hours of attendance at such office.
- (ii) Stationery (such as visiting cards, letterheads, envelopes, prescription slips, notices, etc.) may contain only the physiotherapist's name, qualifications and appointments acceptable to the Board in the approved Chinese and English forms, address, telephone numbers and consultation hours.

(b) Section 9 'Misleading and unapproved descriptions and announcement'

- (i) The Board warns physiotherapists specifically against the use of descriptive wording such as 'Specialist' etc. and reference to positions held, employment, honorary appointments, or experience and qualifications which are unregistrable or not acceptable to the Physiotherapists Board, on signboards, stationery, visiting cards, letterheads, envelopes, prescription slips, notices, etc. A list of qualifications acceptable to the Board in the approved Chinese and English forms (i.e., the List of Quotable Qualifications) is issued to all registered physiotherapists.
- (ii) Physiotherapists are warned that the use of any professional qualification in Chinese Characters immediately before or after the physiotherapist's name is not allowed. The only prefix or suffix in Chinese allowed to be used with the physiotherapist's name is 註冊物理治療師 (Registered physiotherapist).

For the purposes of section 9 of Part III of the Code, the Board has promulgated a List of Quotable Qualifications ("the List") and the guidelines for inclusion of quotable qualifications. Registrants may quote the listed qualifications provided that they are a holder of the qualification. For other non-listed qualifications, registrants are required to apply to the Board for approval before quoting. The updated List, relevant guidelines and application procedures are published in the Board's website (http://www.smp-council.org.hk/pt/english/index_lqq.htm). Please visit the website regularly for updated information.

Physiotherapists using any unapproved titles, qualifications or descriptions may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. If the Board subsequently finds that the physiotherapists concerned are guilty of unprofessional conduct, the Board may make one of the disciplinary orders as set out under section 22 of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), which include removal of the name of the registrant from the register (or for a certain period), reprimand and issue of a warning letter.

Opportunity also is taken to advise registrants that you should for your own interests be conversant with the provisions of the Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation, the Code of Practice for registered physiotherapists and the List of Quotable Qualifications, a breach of which may lead to criminal convictions and/or disciplinary actions by the Board.

Yours faithfully,



(Blanche LIN)

Secretary, Physiotherapists Board