

MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD

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27 January 2026

To: All Registered Medical Laboratory Technologists

Dear Sir / Madam,

Suspected illegal importation of blood samples for testing

This letter serves to **remind all Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) to refrain from engaging in unlawful cross-border transfer of blood specimens into Hong Kong for fetal gender testing.**

The issue

The Department of Health (DH) has recently received media enquiries concerning individuals who promote services on social media platforms that involve arranging blood draws for pregnant women on the Chinese Mainland and smuggling blood samples into Hong Kong for fetal gender testing. The DH stated that it has immediately followed up on the matter and referred relevant information regarding the two laboratories in question to the Medical Laboratory Technologists Board (MLT Board) for appropriate actions against the registered MLTs concerned, in accordance with the Allied Health Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359). Details are given in the DH's press release of 21 January 2026 :-

<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202601/21/P2026012100415.htm?fontSize=1>

List of Companies Carrying on the Business of Practising the MLT Profession

The list of companies which have submitted a statement to the Secretary of the MLT Board carrying on the business of practising the MLT profession in accordance with section 20(3) of Cap. 359 (the List) has been uploaded on the MLT Board website for public record and inspection. However, it must be explicitly stated that the purpose of this list is not related to laboratory accreditation. Any representation, assertion, or claim suggesting that the medical laboratories included on the List have been **accredited** by DH and/or the MLT Board is unequivocally **false, misleading, and legally unfounded**, a serious matter which may be subject to legal and disciplinary proceedings.

Legal Provision of Cap. 359A

According to section 6 of the Medical Laboratory Technologists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 359A), **no registered MLT should perform tests for the purpose of medical diagnosis or treatment without a referral from a registered medical practitioner or other specified healthcare professional.**

The Code of Practice

The Code of Practice of the MLT Board of Hong Kong (the Code) also provides guidance for conduct and relationships in carrying out the **professional responsibilities consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession and quality in medical laboratory work.** In addition, no registered MLT should advertise in an untrue or dishonest way, or advertise in a way which may damage the reputation of the profession. All registered MLTs have a duty to report any illegal activities or unethical conduct to the appropriate authorities.

All registered MLTs shall comply with the statutory requirements under the Allied Health Professions Ordinance (Cap.359) and the Code :-
https://www.smp-council.org.hk/mlt/en/content.php?page=cd_cp

All registered MLTs are advised to read carefully through the Code and to acquaint themselves thoroughly with its contents, thereby avoiding the danger of inadvertently transgressing any part of the Code which may lead to disciplinary action by the MLT Board. A person who contravenes any part of the Code may be subject to inquiries held by the Board but the fact that any matters are not mentioned in the Code, shall not preclude the Board from judging a person to have acted in an unprofessional or improper manner by reference to those matters.

The MLT Board considers a person to have committed a misconduct in a professional respect if that person, in the pursuit of his/her profession, has done something or omits to do something with regard to which it will be reasonably regarded as disgraceful or dishonourable by his/her professional brethren of good repute and competency.

Disciplinary Power of MLT Board – section 22 of Cap. 359

If after due inquiry into any case referred to it by a Preliminary Investigation Committee in accordance with Cap. 359A made under section 29 of Cap. 359, MLT Board is satisfied that a registered MLT has been guilty in Hong Kong or elsewhere of

unprofessional conduct or has failed to comply with Cap. 359, MLT Board may (i) order the name of the person registered to be removed from the register; (ii) order the name of the person registered to be removed from the register for such period as it thinks fit; (iii) order the person registered to be reprimanded; or (iv) order that a warning letter in such terms as it considers appropriate be served on the person registered.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daydrew NG', written in a cursive style.

(Daydrew NG)
Secretary,

Medical Laboratory Technologists Board