

Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)

The Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (the Ordinance) mainly regulates premises where registered medical practitioners and registered dentists practise. Under the Ordinance, four types of private healthcare facilities are subject to regulation - namely, **hospitals, day procedure centres (DPCs), clinics** and **health services establishments**. They are defined in Part 1 of the Ordinance.

Both **DPCs** and **clinics** refer to premises where registered medical practitioners and registered dentists practise, with no lodging services provided. A distinguishing factor between these two types of facilities is that certain medical procedures can be performed in day procedure centres (or private hospitals), but not in clinics. Such medical procedures (“scheduled medical procedures” under the Ordinance) are listed in Schedule 3 to the Ordinance.

For clinics, exemption arrangement is available for **small practice clinics**. A small practice clinic refers to a clinic operated by **not more than five** registered medical practitioners and/or registered dentists, who are all – and also the only ones – responsible for the management of the clinic as well as practising in the clinic. Operators of small practice clinics may ask the Director of Health for **letters of exemption**, which exempt clinics from the need for licences. Each registered medical practitioner / registered dentist may only operate **up to three small practice clinics** with valid exemption in force. For details of the exemption arrangement, please refer to Part 4 of the Ordinance.