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**Press Statement**

**Hong Kong Academy of Medicine  
appeals for governance of “high-risk procedures”**

**(Hong Kong, 11 October 2012)**

The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine supports the Government’s move to tighten measures in regulating the private healthcare facilities in Hong Kong, following the unfortunate death of a woman after her receiving cellular infusion therapy at a beauty therapy centre. To those who are affected in the tragic incident, the Academy would like to offer its heartiest sympathy and condolence. The Academy wishes those who are still in hospital a speedy recovery.

The Academy, being a statutory body in Hong Kong to train and accredit medical and dental specialists, is committed to upkeep the standard of practice of medical and dental professionals to ensure patient safety for the community. We are particularly concerned about the practice of doctors and professionals performing potentially “high-risk procedures” that require advanced training and experience. Medical procedures that are of potentially high risk must be operated in safe settings and by appropriately trained and accredited medical practitioners. The Academy is in the process of establishing a credentialing system, which will be a step towards enabling only those properly trained and possessing the relevant knowledge/experience to perform high-risk tasks and procedures in appropriate settings.

“Credentialing” refers to the formal process used to verify the qualifications, professional training, clinical experience and other relevant professional attributes of healthcare professionals for the purpose of forming a view about their competence, performance and professional suitability to provide safe, high quality health care services within specific organizational environments. Credentialing is legislated and implemented in countries like Australia and New Zealand.

The Academy also supports the advocacy to call upon legislation against beauty parlors’ incorporating medical procedures in their business operation.

**Contact Person:**

**PR Secretariat**

**Lily Chan Li Li** Tel: 2803-2827 / 9753-4782 Email: [lily.chan@mrogilvy.com](mailto:lily.chan@mrogilvy.com)

10/F, HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Telephone : (852) 2871 8888 Facsimile : (852) 2505 5577 Email : [hkam@hkam.org.hk](mailto:hkam@hkam.org.hk) Website : <http://www.hkam.org.hk/>