



Traditional Chinese medicine has made substantial advances in recent years. The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong was established in 1999 to provide a regulatory regime covering the use, manufacture and trading of Chinese medicines. This framework has allowed Hong Kong to take advantage of the growing interest in the field, both at home and overseas.

The first public Chinese medicine outpatient clinic was established in 2003. Since then 14 others have come into operation, with more planned.

Three local universities offer full-time degree courses in Chinese medicine – the Hong Kong Baptist University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

As medical services have been identified by the Government as one of the industries important for the development of the economy, Chinese medicine looks set to expand further.

### Medical Research

Hong Kong's universities excel in many areas of medical research.

- In January 2011, an HKU medical research team became the first in the world to successfully generate human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) without using animal products.
- In 2010, an HKU team made a breakthrough in the use of oral arsenic trioxide – the first prescription drug to be developed entirely in Hong Kong – to treat leukemia.
- Hong Kong is poised to become a biotechnology centre, thanks to China's leading genomic company Beijing Genomics Institute – which has the same capacity as the three top laboratories in the US – basing its main laboratory in Hong Kong in 2009. BGI Hong Kong

is engaged in an unparalleled DNA sequencing project. The Hong Kong Biotechnology Institute was established in June 2010 to strengthen Hong Kong's biotechnology industry.

- CUHK achieved a breakthrough in 2008 on non-invasive prenatal diagnosis to revolutionise the way of checking fetus health.
- Hong Kong is a pioneer in computer navigation surgery on bone cancer patients. CUHK's orthopaedic surgeons received an award at the International Society of Limb Salvage meeting in Germany in 2007 for their groundbreaking work.
- A team from HKU, a world leader in the study of liver diseases, conducted the first 'adult-to-adult right lobe live donor liver transplant' in the world in 2005.
- HKU is globally the second highest cited institution for research on avian influenza, and is one of the WHO's eight H5N1 reference laboratories.
- The Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection is a WHO Verification and Reference Laboratory for SARS, H5N1, measles and Supranational Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis.

### Food Safety

The Centre for Food Safety works with the local trade and consumers, relevant authorities in the Mainland and overseas, and international organisations related to food safety, to ensure that food on sale in Hong Kong is safe for consumption.

A new nutrition labelling scheme came into effect on 1 July 2010 to help consumers make informed food choices and regulate misleading or deceptive labels and nutrition claims.

The Food Safety Ordinance, passed by the Legislative Council in March 2011, aims

to introduce a food tracing mechanism to deal more effectively with food incidents. The ordinance also empowers authorities to make rules to tighten import controls on specific food types based on risk assessment. It also re-enacts the legislation to empower authorities to ban the import or supply of problem food and direct a food recall to protect public health, based on risk assessment.

### HIV and Malaria

According to WHO, Hong Kong has one of the lowest prevalence rates of HIV in the world. Malaria has long been successfully controlled in Hong Kong, with no locally acquired case since 1998.

### Tobacco Control

Hong Kong promotes a smoke-free culture, through a progressive approach, encompassing legislation, enforcement, publicity, education, promotion of smoking cessation and taxation. Indoor smoking is virtually banned in all restaurants, workplaces, bars, clubs and nightclubs. The ban also covers some public outdoor places such as beaches, parks and public transport interchanges.

For more information, please visit [www.chp.gov.hk](http://www.chp.gov.hk) [www.dh.gov.hk](http://www.dh.gov.hk)