



Primary Care Directory Sub-directory for Dentists Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Primary Care Directory (PCD)

1.1. What is PCD?

The PCD is a web-based electronic database containing practice information and professional qualification of primary care providers in the community to facilitate the public search for their own doctors, dentists and Chinese Medicine Practitioners. The PCD was first launched in April 2011 with sub-directories for doctors and dentists, followed by the sub-directory for Chinese Medicine Practitioners which was launched in October 2012.

The Primary Healthcare Blueprint (the Blueprint) released by the Government in 2022 recommended that all healthcare professionals who provide Government-subsidised primary healthcare (PHC) services should be enlisted in the PCD. Such requirement has been implemented for doctors since 6 October 2023, which would be extended to dentists starting from 2 January 2025.

1.2. How can I obtain more information on the PCD?

You may learn more about the PCD by visiting the [PCD website](#) or you may contact the Primary Healthcare Commission (PHCC) of the Health Bureau via email: phcc@healthbureau.gov.hk.

2. Enrolment in the PCD

2.1. How can I enrol in the PCD?

Registered dentists in Hong Kong who are committed to providing directly accessible, comprehensive, continuing, co-ordinated and person-centred primary care services are eligible for enrolment in the PCD. Moreover, joining eHealth will become a new requirement for dentists to be enlisted in the PCD starting from 2 January 2025. Such requirement is to pave



way for future implementation of uploading essential information to eHealth accounts of service users, which is a recommendation laid down in the Blueprint. A two-month grace period up to 28 February 2025 has been put in place for the implementation of the new requirement.

You may refer to the [Enrolment Guide](#) of the PCD and enrol online via the [website](#). Those already joined Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme (EHVS) with an account in the eHealth System (Subsidies) may enrol in the PCD through the system (<https://apps.hcv.gov.hk/Public/en/>).

2.2. I am participating in the EHVS. What is the impact if I am not enlisted in the PCD?

With effect from 2 January 2025, being enlisted in the PCD will be a prerequisite for dentists to participate in Government-subsidised PHC programmes including EHVS. A two-month grace period up to 28 February 2025 has been put in place for the implementation of the new requirement. If you are not enlisted in the PCD by the end of the grace period, you will not be able to offer your patients the subsidised services under EHVS.



2.3. What is the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement before and after 2 January 2025?

CPD is not an entry requirement for first-time enrolment in the PCD. Alternatively, there is CPD requirement for maintaining listing in the PCD. Please refer to the [Terms and Conditions](#) for details. The CPD requirement for maintaining listing in PCD is the same before and after the implementation date of 2 January 2025.

3. Maintenance of Listing in the PCD

3.1. Is there any CPD requirement for maintaining listing in the PCD?

In order to promote and maintain the quality of services provided by primary care providers listed in the PCD, dentists enrolled in the PCD must demonstrate that they are pursuing CPD. As stipulated in the [Terms and Conditions](#), enrolled dentists shall comply with the following throughout the period that their names are being listed in the PCD:

- (i) an enrolled registered dentist who is not taking CPD Programme for specialists shall participate in the “CPD Programme for Practising Dentists” approved by the Dental Council of Hong Kong (DCHK) and shall accumulate the required points for becoming eligible for the issue of a CPD Certificate by the DCHK after the end of each CPD-cycle;
- (ii) an enrolled registered dentist who is a specialist included in the Specialist Register of the DCHK shall participate in and comply with the CPD requirements relevant to his/her specialty as may be determined by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;
- (iii) an enrolled registered dentist who falls behind the CPD requirements because of prolonged illness may apply for an exemption from the CPD requirements. The guiding principle of exemption is that when an enrolled registered dentist is not in active practice because of the illness, CPD requirement of that total period of “not in active practice” will be exempted for CPD in that cycle. For other exceptional circumstances, partial exemption will be considered and approved by the Advisory Committee on Primary Care Directory on a case-by-case pro-rata basis depending on the extent of illness and its impact on practice. An illness can be accepted as “prolonged illness” provided a sick leave of at least six months has been formally granted within a three-year cycle.

3.2. I am not taking CPD Programme for specialists. What is the current CPD cycle and when will the CPD checking be conducted?

The duration of a CPD cycle for dentists is of three years and the current one lasts from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025. The next CPD checking will be conducted after the end of the current cycle, i.e. in mid-2026, to ensure that enrolled dentists fulfill the CPD requirement for maintaining listing in PCD. PHCC will check against the list of dentists who have met the CPD requirements set by the DCHK and the Specialist Register of the DCHK. Please refer to **3.1** above and the [Conditions for Maintenance of Listing](#) for details.

3.3. What is the enhanced account reactivation mechanism?

The checking of CPD status for dentists not taking CPD Programme for specialists will be conducted after the end of the current cycle, i.e. in mid-2026. Registered dentists who are unable to meet the CPD requirement by the time of checking can still maintain listing in the PCD through the **enhanced account reactivation mechanism** on the condition that they have accumulated **15 CPD points** with recognised proof* in the previous calendar year (i.e. **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**).

For application form and details about PCD account reactivation, please visit the [website](#).

**Recognised proof currently refers to the record of CPD issued by the HKDA*

3.4. I am not taking CPD Programme for specialists. When should I start to accumulate CPD points and what is the requirement for the current cycle?

The current CPD cycle has commenced since 1 January 2023 and will end on 31 December 2025. While there is no specific requirement for when to earn the CPD points, enrolled dentists are required to accumulate the required points for obtaining **the CPD Certificate** issued by the DCHK in order to maintain listing in the PCD.

The checking of CPD status will be conducted after the end of the current cycle, i.e. in mid-2026. Registered dentists who are unable to meet the CPD requirement by the time of checking can still maintain listing in the PCD through the enhanced account reactivation mechanism on the condition that they have accumulated **15 CPD points** with recognised proof* in the previous calendar year (i.e. **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**).

**Recognised proof currently refers to the record of CPD issued by the HKDA*

3.5. If I have already obtained 30 CPD points in 2024, do I still need to obtain 15 points in 2025 to pass the checking in 2026?

The checking of CPD status for dentists not taking CPD Programme for specialists will be conducted after the end of the current cycle (i.e. 2023 to 2025), i.e. in mid-2026.

Existing PCD dentists who are not taking CPD Programme for specialists shall participate in the "CPD Programme for Practising Dentists" approved by the DCHK and shall accumulate the required CPD points for the issue of a CPD Certificate by DCHK for the current cycle. Registered dentists who are unable to meet the CPD requirement by the time of checking can still maintain listing in the PCD through the enhanced account reactivation mechanism on the condition that they have accumulated **15 CPD points** with recognised proof* in the previous calendar year (i.e. **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**).

Therefore, please ensure that you are either awarded a CPD Certificate issued by DCHK or at least 15 CPD points within the period of 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 in order to maintain listing in the PCD by the time of CPD status checking in 2026.

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3.6. I shall become a registered dentist in 2025 and would like to join the PCD. As the current CPD cycle is 2023 to 2025, I shall not have sufficient time to accumulate the required CPD points. What shall I do?

For registered dentists who will enrol in PCD in 2025 and are unable to meet the CPD requirement for the current cycle (i.e. 2023 to 2025), as a **special arrangement**, they can still maintain listing in the PCD on the condition that they have accumulated **15 CPD points** with recognised proof* in **either 2025 or 2026 calendar year**.

Registered dentists should also fulfill the CPD requirements stipulated by the DCHK.

**Recognised proof currently refers to the record of CPD issued by the HKDA*

3.7. In dentistry there are CPD and CME programmes. Are they equivalent in the PCD requirement?

According to the Terms and Conditions of PCD, an enrolled registered dentist who is not taking CPD Programme for specialists shall participate in the "CPD Programme for Practising Dentists" approved by the DCHK and shall accumulate the required points for becoming eligible for the issue of a CPD Certificate by DCHK after the end of each CPD-cycle in order to maintain listing in the PCD.

Besides, all registered dentists with the qualification of Membership in General Dentistry (MGD) who have fulfilled CME requirements set out by the College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong (CDSHK)* are regarded as equivalent to meeting PCD maintaining requirements.

**MGD holders of the CDSHK are required to attain a minimum of 60 CMEpoints over a three-year cycle period.*

3.8. What is one-off provisional listing arrangement for dentists?

Dentists with inactivated PCD account need to fulfill the CPD requirements for account reactivation. To encourage dentists who are committed to provide primary healthcare services on meeting the training requirements for maintaining listing in PCD, an one-off arrangement has been put in place for dentists with insufficient CPD points for PCD listing on or before 28 February 2025 (i.e. end of grace period for implementation of new requirements for dentists participating in Government-subsidised PHC programmes), to be provisionally listed in PCD. To qualify for provisional listing, dentists must undertake to join eHealth and accumulate sufficient CPD points with documentary proof provided on or before 31 August

2025. Sufficient CPD points means 15 points accumulated in the past 12 months counting from the date of submission of the documentary proof.

Dentists being provisionally listed may continue to participate in the Government-subsidised PHC programmes. Those failing to provide documentary proof of sufficient CPD after 31 August 2025 will be delisted from PCD.

Dentists interested to apply for the one-off provisional arrangement may fill in the [application form](#) and send it to the PHCC via email or fax. Alternatively, dentists may submit online application through eHealth System (subsidies) with simple steps guided by pop-up box.

Nevertheless, dentists are reminded that PHCC will conduct regular CPD checking in 2026 for the CPD cycle 2023 to 2025. Dentists on provisional listing still need to fulfill the maintenance requirement to maintain listing in PCD. Please refer to FAQ 4.3 for details.

4. PCD Account Matters

4.1. My PCD account has been inactivated. How can I reactivate my account?

Dentists whose accounts in the PCD have been inactivated may apply for reactivation of accounts if the following criteria are fulfilled:

- a) Dentists who are specialists shall be listed in the Specialist Register of the DCHK.
- b) Dentists who are non-specialists shall have accumulated the required points for obtaining the CPD Certificate issued by the DCHK.

For application form and details about PCD account reactivation, please visit the [website](#).

4.2. I have completed the enrolment. When will my information be shown on the PCD website?

After verification of the information provided, applicants will normally be informed by email whether the enrolment is approved or not within 20 working days upon providing all necessary



information including copy of the Hong Kong Identity Card. Successful applicants will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account. Upon activation of your account, your information will be displayed on the PCD website for searching and viewing by the public after midnight.

4.3. When should I submit the proof of my CPD status during enrolment or after the end of CPD cycle?

There is no need for dentists to submit CPD certificate during enrolment or after the end of CPD cycle. CPD is not an entry requirement and is not required for first-time enrolment in the PCD. Alternatively, there is CPD requirement for maintaining listing in the PCD.

CPD checking for dentists not taking CPD Programme for specialists will be conducted after the end of the current cycle, i.e. in mid-2026. PHCC will check against the list of dentists who have met the CPD requirements set by the DCHK and the Specialist Register of the DCHK. Please refer to **3.1** above and the [Conditions for Maintenance of Listing](#) for details.

However, if the dentists could not fulfill the CPD requirement for maintaining listing in PCD and would like to maintain listing through the **enhanced account reactivation mechanism**, they need to submit recognized proof* of **15 CPD points** in the previous calendar year (i.e. **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**).

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5. Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHealth)

5.1. Do I need to join eHealth before enrolling in the PCD?

Joining eHealth will become a requirement for enrolment in the PCD starting from 2 January 2025. A two-month grace period up to 28 February 2025 has been put in place for the implementation of the new requirements. Such requirement is to pave way for future implementation of uploading essential information to eHealth accounts of service users.

For those already enrolled in the PCD but yet to join eHealth, please join eHealth early in order to continue listing in the PCD.



5.2. If the organisation I am working in already registered with eHealth, do I need to join the eHealth?

Starting from 2 January 2025, before enrolling in the PCD, you need to join eHealth as a Healthcare Professional (HCProf) under the organisation you are working in, which also needs to register with eHealth as a Healthcare Provider (HCP). For details, please visit the [website of eHealth](#).

5.3. How can I join eHealth?

To join eHealth, please visit [the website of eHealth](#). For enquiry, please contact the eHealth healthcare staff hotline at 3467 6230 or email via ehr@ehealth.gov.hk.

5.4. I have joined EHVS programme, does it mean that I have already registered with eHealth?

The system for operation of EHVS is the eHealth System (Subsidies), which is a different system from eHealth. As such, you have to join eHealth separately. Please refer to 5.1 to 5.3 for details.



6. PCD logo

6.1. What is PCD logo for dentists?

PCD logo for dentists aims to enhance public awareness of the PCD and facilitate the general public in identifying PCD dentists. The logo sticker is valid for a calendar year and will be renewed annually.



To tie in with the effective date of PCD enrolment as a prerequisite for dentists to participate in Government-subsidised PHC programmes, PCD logo stickers for 2025 will be issued to enrolled dentists.

6.2. When and where can I obtain the PCD logo stickers?

For 2025, PHCC will send the logo stickers to all PCD dentists by post around early 2025, one for each enrolled dentist. As the logo stickers are valid for only one calendar year, renewed stickers for the following years will be distributed to dentists upon request and after annual updating/confirmation of information in the PCD by the dentists. Dentists may request extra logo stickers at a quantity not exceeding the number of practicing locations listed in the PCD, subject to the availability of stock.

For enquiry, please contact PHCC via email: phcc@healthbureau.gov.hk.

6.3. How to display and dispose the PCD logo stickers?

All PCD dentists are eligible to obtain the logo stickers and are encouraged to display the sticker at a prominent place in their practising location. If there are more than one PCD dentist practising at the same address, the number of logo stickers to be displayed is subject to their own arrangement.

Dentists shall remove and properly dispose the logo stickers after the calendar year printed on the stickers or when the dentists are no longer enlisted in PCD, whichever is the earlier. Return of the logo stickers to PHCC is not required.