

**Mayo Clinic of USA, Department of Health of the Hong Kong SAR
Government and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Hong Kong SAR
Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification Training Programme
(1 February 2010 – 5 February 2010)**

Introduction

In Hong Kong, smoking is responsible for causing 6,900 deaths a year and is the most important preventable risk factor responsible for diseases and deaths. Active and passive smoking cost Hong Kong not less than \$5.3 billions per year. Globally, tobacco use still kills more than 5 million people per year. If current trends persist, it could kill more than 8 million people per year by 2030, with 80% of the deaths in low- and middle-income countries. The death toll for the 21st century could reach 1 billion.

2. To curb the smoking epidemic, the World Health Organization advocates a multi-pronged approach. Offering help to quit tobacco use is one component of effective public health measures. In order to train up professionals with quality and ability to provide treatment for tobacco dependence, the Department of Health (DH) of Hong Kong SAR Government, in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic of USA and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) of Hong Kong SAR, is organizing a Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification training programme in Hong Kong. It equips professionals with the skills, knowledge and training to provide effective, evidence-based interventions so that their competency in providing tobacco treatment could be formally recognized as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist.

Target Participants

3. The certification course is targeted at professionals who may have various affiliations and may work in a variety of settings including but not limited to hospitals, community health centers, medical and dental practices, educational settings, social service agencies, tobacco treatment centers, telephone quitlines, drug abuse treatment programs and mental health centers. A Tobacco Treatment Specialist may engage not only in providing treatment but also in educating others (health care professionals, administrators, scientists, smokers, nonsmokers) about tobacco dependence treatments.

Programme Description

4. The training program is an intensive, five-day course focusing on the skills needed to effectively treat tobacco dependence. Training will be conducted by experts from Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center, DH and TWGHs.

5. The format includes presentations, workshop, group discussions, games, exercise and interactive activities. The number of topics includes: neuropharmacology of nicotine, optimization of pharmacologic management, conducting a basic counseling session, motivational interviewing and other counseling approaches, application of treatment of tobacco dependence to people with co-morbid conditions, local legislations on tobacco control and resources available on smoking cessation in the local settings. The last day of the program will consist of an examination which tests both knowledge and counseling skills.

6. The detail of the programme is attached at Annex II. Light refreshment will be provided during tea breaks.

Language Medium

7. The programme will be conducted in English.

Fee

8. The training fee for the programme is HK\$15,000 (non-refundable). Local applicants should make a crossed cheque payable to “Tung Wah Group of Hospitals”; Overseas applicants should pay by bank draft (in Hong Kong Dollars) drawn on a bank in Hong Kong and made payable to “Tung Wah Group of Hospitals”. The fee should be settled on or before 5 January 2010.

Date and Venue

9. The date and venue of the class is as below:

Date	Venue / Time
1 – 5 Feb 2010 (Mon – Fri)	Conference Room 4/F, Centre for Health Protection, 147C, Argyle Street, Kowloon, HK 09:00 – 17:00

How to Register

10. Interested and eligible candidates are invited to complete the registration form in Annex III and send the completed form to Tobacco Control Office of Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR Government. Acceptance of registration is at the discretion of the organizer and is subject to availability of places.

Address: 18/F & 25/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Fax: 852 2575 8944

Email: tco_smokefree@dh.gov.hk

For enquiries about this programme, please email (mannylam@dh.gov.hk) or call Dr Manny LAM at 852-29618928.

Deadline for Registration

11. The deadline of registration is 5 January 2010. Late registration will only be considered subject to the availability of places.

Certification Requirements

12. Candidate may apply for, and be granted, a TTS certificate jointly issued by the three organizations if the candidate:

- i) Completes the 5-day TTS Training Program with full attendance; and
- ii) Holds a Bachelor's degree or higher; and
- iii) Demonstrates appropriate skills by achieving a passing score of 80 percent on both the knowledge-based and skills-based examinations; and
- iv) Completes 480 service hours focused on tobacco dependence treatment as part of direct patient/client care, OR
- v) For those with a Master's degree or higher, completes 240 service hours focused on tobacco dependence treatment as part of direct patient/client care.

13. Provisional TTS certificate would be granted for those who fulfilled the above criteria (i) and (iii) but not yet fulfill the criteria (ii) and (iv or v). Provisional certification is valid for two years. During this period, candidate may apply for, and be granted, a full TTS certificate if he/she has fulfilled the criteria (ii) and (iv or v).

Tobacco Control Office
Department of Health
Hong Kong

8 December 2009