

Counselling services at methadone clinics are provided by social workers of the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers (SARDA). Methadone clinics thus provide a point of contact to refer patients to other treatment and rehabilitation agencies when necessary.

As drug addiction constitutes a high risk group for AIDS and other blood borne diseases, health education and counselling for patients is always a priority. Concomitant activities include broadcasting of health educational video and cassette programmes in methadone clinics, free distribution of condoms and the provision of blood testing services for patients of Methadone Treatment Programme. Since November 1999, blood screening services for HIV and hepatitis B infections have been extended to all methadone clinics.

Pharmaceutical Service

The Pharmaceutical Service ensures the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines used in Hong Kong. Acting on the authority of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, the Pharmaceutical Service registers and approves the marketing of pharmaceutical products, issues licences to drug manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers, and joins hands with the Police against illegal sale of controlled medicines. It comprises four sections.

美沙酮診所內更駐有香港戒毒會的社會工作人員，為病人提供輔導，並作為聯絡點，在有需要時將他們轉介往其他醫療或康復機構。

由於吸毒者有較大機會感染愛滋病及其他透過血液傳播的疾病，故美沙酮診所亦在這方面加強了對病人的健康教育及輔導工作。有關的活動包括在美沙酮診所播放健康教育錄影帶及錄音帶、免費派發安全套以及提供驗血服務予參與美沙酮治療計劃的人士。由一九九九年十一月開始，愛滋病及乙型肝炎感染驗血服務已擴展至全港所有美沙酮診所。

藥劑事務部

藥劑事務部的工作是確保本港市面上出售的藥物在安全程度、品質及成效方面均符合標準。該部獲藥劑業及毒藥管理局授權為藥劑製品註冊和批准銷售藥物，向製藥商、進口商、批發商和零售商簽發牌照，並聯同警方打擊售賣受管制藥物的違法行為。藥劑事務部共設有四個工作組別。

The Inspection and Licensing Section is responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Cap. 138), the Antibiotics Ordinance (Cap. 137), and the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134). Enforcement is effected through inspection and licensing of drug manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers; investigation by way of test purchases, sampling of products for analysis and initiation of prosecutions against offenders. In 2000, number of inspections and prosecutions conducted by the Inspection and Licensing Section of Pharmaceutical Service were 9 639 and 99 respectively (Figure 27). Pharmacist inspectors participate in joint operations with the Police against illegal activities involving controlled medicines and act as expert witnesses in the law courts. Traditional Chinese medicines are also tested for the presence of western medicines and whether the level of heavy metals exceeds the permissible limit.

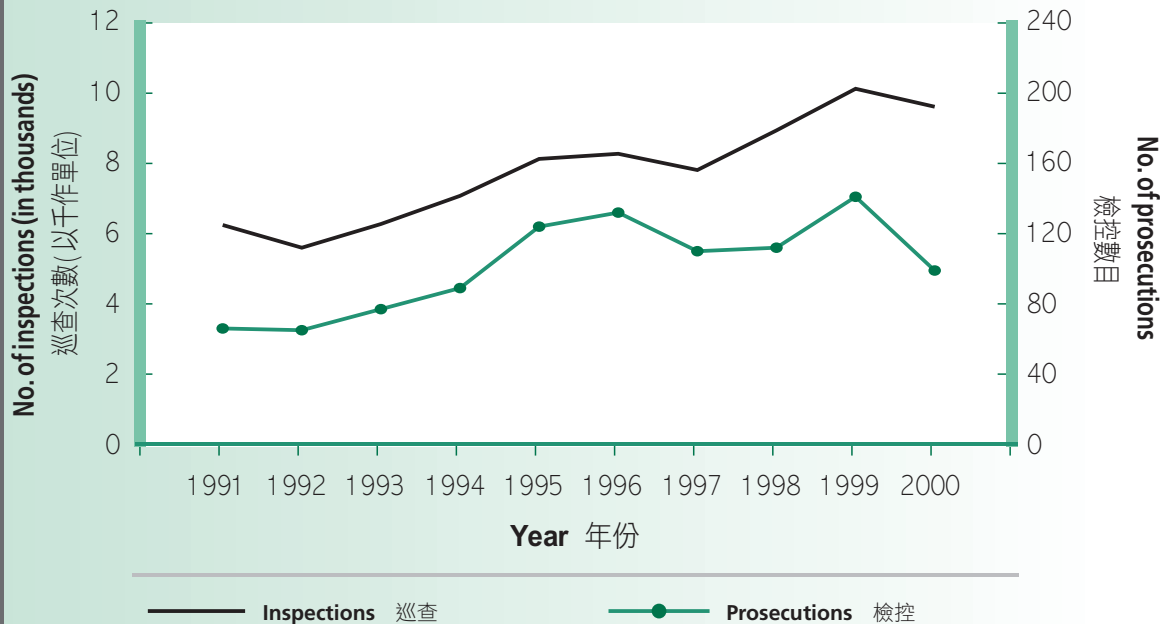
The Pharmaceuticals Registration and Import/Export Control Section registers pharmaceutical products before they can be manufactured or imported for local consumption. An import/export licensing control system is in place to ensure that only registered pharmaceutical products are imported into Hong Kong. To enable health care personnel to identify the composition of dispensed medicines labelled with proprietary names, the Section published the latest edition of the Compendium of Pharmaceutical Products in 2000 which was also available in the homepage of the Department.

督察及牌照組的職責是執行《藥劑業及毒藥條例》(第138章)、《抗生素條例》(第137章)及《危險藥物條例》(第134章)。執法人員會到製藥商、進口商、批發商及零售商處巡查和落實執行發牌制度，並試行購買受管制藥物的方式進行調查，又從市面抽取藥物樣本化驗，若發現有違法行為，便會提出檢控。於二零零零年，藥劑事務部的督察及牌照組巡查及檢控個案數目分別為9639及99(圖27)。督察及牌照組調查員又聯同警方打擊涉及受管制藥物的違法活動，並會以專家證人身分出庭作證。此外，該組亦會化驗傳統中醫藥，分析是否含有西藥成分和所含的重金屬是否超出許可限量。

藥物註冊及出入口管制組為藥劑製品先行註冊，然後才批准製造或輸入本港出售。出入口發牌管制制度確保進口本港的藥劑製品均已註冊。該組在二零零零年編印了最新一期的藥劑製品手冊，方便醫護人員按成藥名稱確定所配發藥物的成分，有關資料亦已上載至部門網頁。

Figure 27 Number of Inspections and Prosecutions by the Inspection and Licensing Section of Pharmaceutical Service, 1991 - 2000

圖 27 一九九一年至二零零零年藥劑事務部的督察及牌照組巡查及檢控個案數目



The Clinic Service Section provides dispensing service to all clinics under the Department of Health. A computerised dispensing system is in use in all clinic premises, including evening clinics. To strengthen the frontline support in clinic dispensaries, additional dispensing staff have been recruited and posted to clinics with heavy workload.

The Procurement and Manufacturing Section works with the Government Supplies Department in the evaluation and selection of medicines and other pharmaceutical items for use in the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority. It is also responsible for manufacturing liquid medicines, ointments and creams.

診所服務組為衛生署轄下各診所配發藥物。包括夜間診所在內的所有診所現已設置電腦化配藥系統。為加強診所藥房的前線人手支援，新增聘的配藥人員已調派至工作繁重的診所。

採購及藥物配製組協助政府物料供應處評估和選購衛生署及醫院管理局所使用的藥物和其他藥劑，並負責製造藥水、油膏及乳膏。