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Dr. KO Wing Man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health
The Government of HKSAR
Email: sfhoffice@fhh.gov.hk

2nd Apr 2015

Dear Dr. KO,

**Submission to the Consultation Document on Regulatory Framework on
Nutrition and Health Claims for Infant Formula and Infant and Young Children Food
under 36 months of age in Hong Kong**

We appreciate the Food and Health Bureau of HKSAR Government to initiate the consultation on Regulatory Framework on Nutrition and Health Claims which is an important measure on early childhood nutrition.

The Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS) and the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (HKPF) jointly convened a Forum on 5 March 2015 in response to the HKSAR Government's consultative document.

Enclosed please find the submission from HKPS and HKPF on the Bureau's Consultation Paper.
Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,

Lilian.
Dr. Lilian Wong
President
The Hong Kong Paediatric Society

Cc: Dr. CHAN Chok Wan, Board Chairman, Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation
Council of the Hong Kong Paediatric Society and Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation

Submission to the Consultation Document on “Regulatory Framework for Nutrition and Health Claims for Infant Formula, Follow up Formula and Infant and Young Children Food under 36 months of age in Hong Kong”

The Hong Kong Paediatric Society (HKPS) established in 1962 representing paediatricians for paediatrics and child health AND the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (HKPF) established in 1994 representing the child healthcare professionals in Hong Kong for health education and advocacy jointly convened a Forum on 5th March 2015 at the Seminar Room of Hospital Authority Premises in response to the HKSAR Government’s consultation paper on “Regulatory Framework for Nutrition and Health Claims”. The Meeting was attended by more than 100 child healthcare professionals and the following consensus was concluded therefrom:

1. Hong Kong should have legislative and mandatory regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims for Formula Milk and Infant and Young Children Food (IYC).
2. There should be clear definitions of food for children and clear criteria of regulations to avoid loopholes for advertisement and commercial promotion.
3. There should be clear regulatory mechanisms and sanction measures to safeguard the food provided to our children. Healthcare professionals should be included in the regulatory body to provide professional advice to the government.
4. Paediatricians should have four roles in the promotion of breastfeeding and infant nutrition: 1) as expert for paediatric and child health issues; 2) as member of regulatory bodies; 3) as public educator to teach parents on infant nutrition and 4) as child advocate to ensure best nutrition for our children.
5. Nutrition claims and Health claims should be *prohibited* in Infant Formula and Follow-up Formula.
6. Nutrition Reduction of disease risk claims should be *prohibited* in Formula milk and IYC Food.
7. Nutrition claims *should not be allowed* in IYC Food.
8. Nutrients or constituents claims permitted to be the subjects of claims should be of *high importance to the health of infants and young children*.
9. Nutrition and health claims *should meet specific content conditions* and health claims should be *scientifically substantiated and have undergone credible evaluation process*.
10. Regulation for “Health Food” and “Health Supplement” should also be considered since these are the grey areas under existing Food and Drug Regulations.

We appreciate the HKSAR Government to initiate the Regulatory Framework on Nutrition and Health Claims for Formula Milk and IYC. As child advocate, we urge the government to take sanction measures and clear regulatory mechanism to ensure best nutrition and food provided to children in Hong Kong.

Submitted by

The Hong Kong Paediatric Society and the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation (2 April 2015)

Appendix

Survey Results from Participants consisting of paediatricians, nurses and allied health professionals at the Forum (10 Questions)

1. Definition of Infant Formula : *0-12 months* (majority)
2. **Support** to have **Legislative Regulation** (90%) on nutrition and health claims for formula milk and infant and young children food in Hong Kong.
3. **Support** Principle 1:
 - Nutrition claims (i.e. nutrient content claims and nutrient comparative claims) **should be prohibited** in Infant Formula (73%)
4. **Support** Principle 2:
 - Reduction of disease risk claims **should be prohibited** in Formula and IYC Food (81%)
5. **Disagree** with Principle 3:
 - Nutrition claims (i.e. nutrient content claims and nutrient comparative claims) and nutrient function claims **should not be allowed** in IYC Food (Majority)
6. **Support** Principle 4:
 - Nutrients or constituents claims permitted to be the subjects of claims should be of **high importance to the health of infants and young children** (100%)
7. **Support** Principle 5:
 - Nutrition and health claims **should meet specific content conditions** and health claims should be **scientifically substantiated and have undergone credible evaluation process** (100%)
8. Health claims **should not be allowed** in Infant Formula (73%)
9. Nutrition and Health claims **should not be allowed** for Follow-up Formula (64%)
10. Support **Sanction measures** on nutrition and health claims for formula milk and IYC Food (81%)