

## MMA warns doctors against leasing credentials to aesthetic clinics

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has warned medical practitioners against "leasing" their professional credentials to aesthetic clinics and the unsupervised prescription of weight-loss drugs.

MMA President Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo expressed concern over reports of doctors renting out their Letter of Credentialing and Privileging (LCP), calling it a grave breach of ethics.

"An LCP is not a tradable document. It is tied to a doctor's competence and accountability. When a clinic operates under a doctor's name, the duty of care remains with that doctor and cannot be delegated," he said in a statement today.

The warning follows an investigative report by portal Says titled "A dangerous trade: Doctors who betrayed their oath to do no harm."

According to the investigation, these doctors rarely step foot in the clinics, leaving unlicensed beauticians to perform invasive medical procedures.

This lack of oversight has reportedly led to numerous cases of botched treatments and serious patient complications.

Dr Thirunavukarasu also flagged the rising misuse of potent medications like Ozempic (semaglutide) and Mounjaro (tirzepatide) as "lifestyle shortcuts" for weight loss.

This comes in mention of a previous Says report, "Hair loss, bloating, and regret: The perils of DIY Ozempic jabs", which highlighted a growing "DIY Ozempic" trend in Malaysia.

Users interviewed in the report shared harrowing experiences of severe side effects, including sudden hair loss, debilitating bloating, and permanent gallbladder issues after

administering the jabs themselves without professional oversight.

He warned that prescribing these without proper medical assessment or follow-up exposes patients to risks such as severe gastrointestinal complications and dehydration.

"Medicine cannot become purely transactional. Financial arrangements must never compromise clinical standards," he said, adding that injections alone cannot address the complex drivers of obesity.

The MMA advised the public to verify their doctors' registrations and supported strict enforcement by authorities against any practitioners found prioritising commercial gain over patient safety.