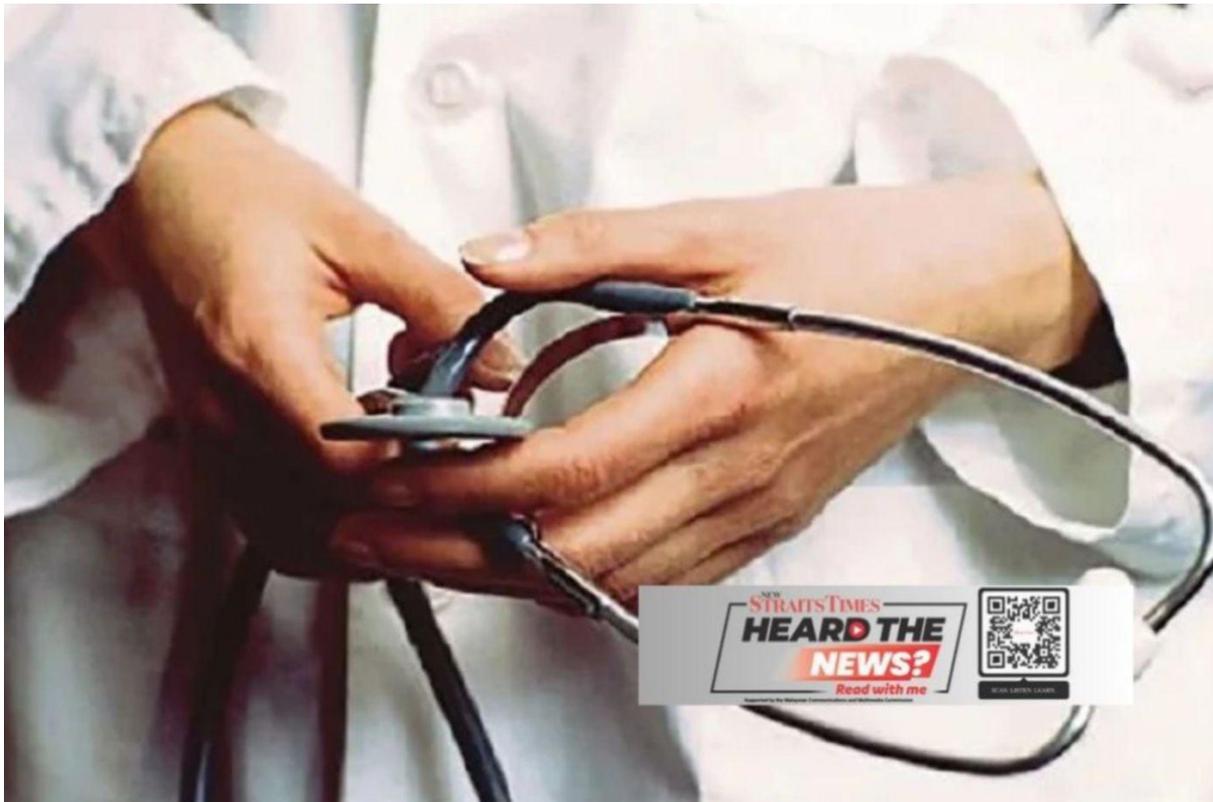


## **MMA: Don't lease credentials to aesthetic clinics**

By **Inas Farid**

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*The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has warned medical practitioners against "leasing" their professional credentials to aesthetic clinics and prescribing weight-loss drugs without proper supervision.- NSTP FILE PIC*

MMA president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo has expressed concern over reports of doctors "renting" out their Letters 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 yesterday.

The warning follows an investigative report by the online 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 practice was mentioned in 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 gall bladder issues after administering the jabs themselves without professional oversight.

He warned that prescribing these without proper medical assessment or follow-up exposed 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 could not address the complex drivers of obesity.

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