

# **Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation**

## **Cross-Strait Medical and Health Cooperation Protects Your Health and Safety, and Defends Your Consumer Rights**

### **Q1: What is the Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation?**

**To negotiate urgent cross-strait medical and health issues!**

The Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation involves carrying out negotiations on more urgent medical and health issues currently facing the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, based on the principles of equality and reciprocity. The content includes cooperation and exchanges on prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, medical and health safety, and the development of specifications for medical products (such as drugs, medical equipment, cosmetics, and health food).

### **Q2: Why sign the Agreement?**

**To further protect the people's health!**

With increasingly frequent cross-strait economic and trade exchanges, both the spread of disease and the sale of pharmaceuticals have direct and significant impacts on the people's health. During the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) incident in 2003, Taiwan missed the golden timing in taking precautions due to the inability to promptly grasp the epidemic situation, resulting in tremendous harm to the people's health. This incident highlights the urgency of cross-strait cooperation in this aspect and shows us the importance of the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

In addition, further cross-strait communication and coordination are needed on Chinese herbal medicines, safety of medical products, and other issues. We hope to achieve " safety management of related products" in order to truly protect the drug safety of the public.

### **Q3: How do we benefit from the signing of the Agreement?**

### **Checking on the health and safety of the people while considering development!**

Through cooperation established by the Agreement, we hope to have a communicative channel to more effectively grasp the trends and developments of infectious diseases so as to eliminate the spread of such diseases and safeguard the people's health.

Furthermore, the Agreement will exercise tighter control over pharmaceutical safety, block sub-standard medical products, and thereby protect consumers' drug safety. The cooperation mechanism also takes into account the development of Taiwan's pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

### **Q4: What basic principles are followed in signing the Agreement?**

#### **Safeguarding health and putting the people first!**

In signing the Agreement, the government considers public health, consumer rights and the development of the pharmaceutical industry. Furthermore, the public can rest assured that, in the course of negotiations, the government will adhere to the principle of benefiting the people of Taiwan, with "no involvement in educating and cultivating medical professionals," "no allowing Mainland medical personnel to take license examination in Taiwan," "no allowing Mainland medical professionals to practice in Taiwan," "no allowing Mainland investors to establish hospitals in Taiwan," and "no allowing national health insurance payments to Mainland hospitals."

### **Q5: Will signing the Agreement bring negative impacts?**

#### **Taiwan's medical environment will be maintained to prevent a shock effect!**

Medicine and sanitation are closely related to the people's health and safety. In order to prevent a shocking impact on the domestic medical environment, we will adhere to the "Five Noes Principle" in negotiations with the Mainland. The Agreement will not bring any negative impact on the medical rights of the public. Rather, the signing of the Agreement will help to protect the people's health and upgrade pharmaceutical quality as well as the development of the pharmaceutical industry.

## **Q6: After the Agreement is signed, how will it be put into effect?**

### **A platform will be established for more effective communication!**

Under the principles of equality and reciprocity, the two sides will establish a platform for communication on medical, health, and the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. The platform will provide a more direct, effective and prompt way to handle cross-strait medical and health related issues, so as to better protect public health on both sides and effectively improve people's health and pharmaceutical safety, while at the same time taking into account the development needs of the industry.

### **Three Major Benefits of Cross-Strait Medical and Health Cooperation:**

Medicine and sanitation are closely intertwined with public health, people's well-being, and social stability. They also have a direct impact on national competitiveness. While adhering to basic principles, the government will sign the "Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation" for the health rights of the people and in consideration of the development of the biotech industry. The Agreement seeks to achieve the objectives of "safeguarding the people's health," "protecting the rights of consumers," and "taking into account the development of domestic industries" so as to free the people of health worries and product apprehension, while also enabling industries to optimize.

### **Protecting Your Rights under the "Five Noes Principle"**

The "Five Noes Principle" is the premise for negotiations on the "Cross-Strait Agreement on Medical and Health Cooperation."

#### **Five Noes Principle:**

**The First No:** No involvement with educating and cultivating medical professionals

**The Second No:** No allowing Mainland medical personnel to take license examinations in Taiwan

**The Third No:** No allowing Mainland medical professionals to practice in Taiwan

**The Fourth No:** No allowing Mainland investors to establish hospitals in Taiwan

**The Fifth No:** No allowing Taiwan's national health insurance payments to Mainland medical facilities

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