

# Feasibility and Future Direction on Legislation of Advance Medical Directive in Hong Kong

Albert Lam

Consultant



醫務衛生局  
Health Bureau

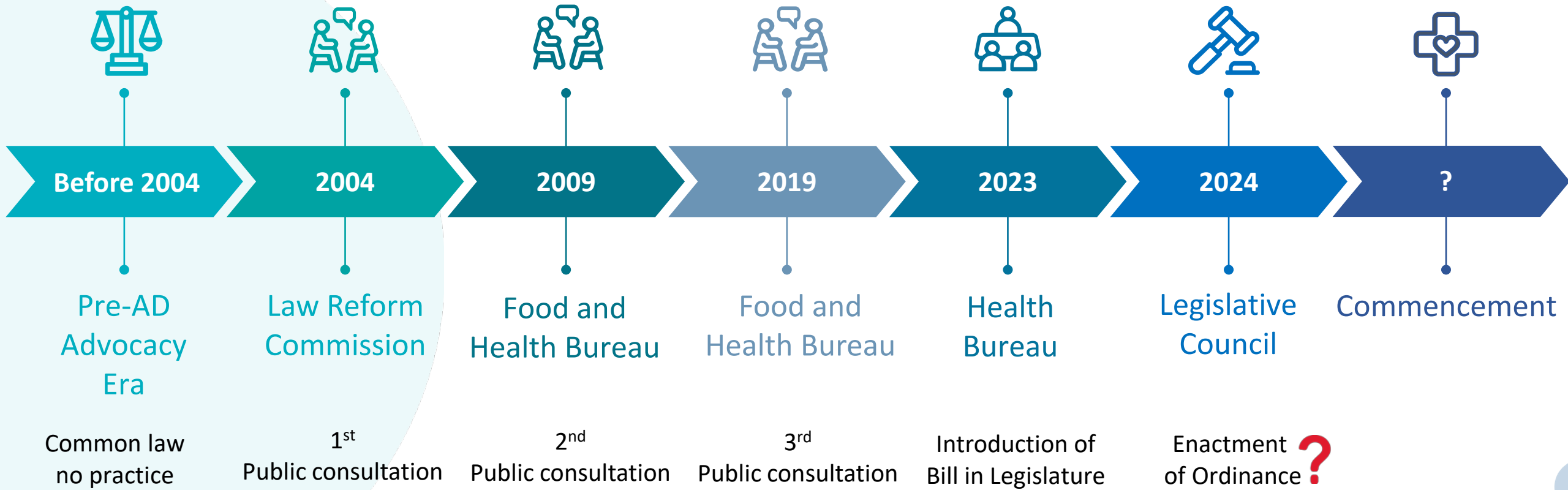


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# Milestones



# Latest Position of Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Bill

- Introduction of the Bill in the Legislative Council in December 2023
- When enacted, the law will commence operation at a later date
- Professional guidelines, protocol, record systems, etc. are being prepared to support the commencement of the Bill

# Main Features of Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Bill

- a) establish legislative framework for Advance Medical Directives (AMDs) and Do-Not-Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders
- b) provide protection to medical professionals, as well as rescuers
- c) remove legislative impediments for emergency rescue personnel
  - Mental Health Ordinance
  - Fire Services Ordinance

# Main Features of Advance Decision on Life-sustaining Treatment Bill

- Model forms for AMDs and statutory forms for DNACPR orders
- “Cautious making, easy revoking”
- “If in doubt, save lives first”
- The maker/maker’s family has the responsibility to give notice to the treatment provider/rescuers
- No requirement for treatment providers and rescuers to search for AMDs/DNACPR orders
- For conflicting copies of AMDs, the latest valid AMD would prevail

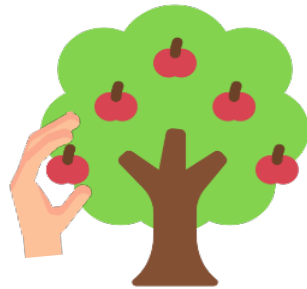
# Feasible & Practicable

Yes!

- More than a decade of experience of non-statutory route (mainly) in Hospital Authority
- Legislative proposals largely based on public consultation which overwhelmingly supported the proposals
- Engagement of different stakeholders
- Collaboration with NGOs on continuous engagement, training and public education

# Future Direction

Immediate: low hanging fruit vs Christmas tree



VS





## Future Direction

Future direction → electronic AMD

- Use of electronic platform (eHealth) for making, storage, retrieval and revocation of AMD

## Further down the road

- Allow adequate time to update protocols, records and systems, and provide training before commencing the new legislative provisions
- Existing DNACPR orders to be gradually phased out and replaced by the statutory forms
- Publicity and education on ACP
- Holistic end-of-life care beyond legislation

# Thank You

