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Report illegal dental practitioners – ministry

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of Health (MOH) views seriously the issue of illegal dental practitioners which has become increasingly prevalent in offering cosmetic dentistry services, such as installation of braces and dental veneers.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in a statement yesterday said the ministry was also concerned that the public were unaware that those offering the services were not qualified dentists, and that they were attracted merely because the services were offered at a relatively low price.

“The MOH would like to remind the public to be wary of the risks that come with availing the services of illegal dental practitioners.

“The adverse effects or complications that may occur are pain, infections, mouth ulcers, loose teeth, unusual movement of teeth, dental caries, tooth loss, as well as gum abscess,” he said.

Noor Hisham said worse still was the risk of contracting HIV

and hepatitis, as the equipment used were not disinfected properly after each use.

He said the ministry had been deluged with complaints from customers who experienced complications or adverse effects from the services offered by those illegal dental practitioners.

“This includes making dentures, scaling, and tooth whitening,” he said.

Noor Hisham said that tooth whitening products (with acid concentration of less than 0.01%) were openly sold in the market and they may be self-applied by consumers.

However, dental procedures that use tooth whitening products exceeding the prescribed concentration, should only be carried out by qualified dental practitioners registered with the Malaysian Dental Council under the Dental Act 1971 and run services in health premises registered under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998, he explained.