



TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS BOARD

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Cancellation of TCM Physician's Registration

Mr Ang Tick Waa ("**Mr Ang**") (翁德华) is a registered Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Physician with the TCM Practitioners Board. At all material times, he was practising at Angsan Chinese Physician & Medical Hall, located at Block 635 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 6, #01-5127, Singapore 560635. Mr Ang was still suspended from TCM practice pursuant to the decision of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (the "Board") in IC 2018/4, where he was suspended for a period of one year from 14 May 2019 to 13 May 2020.

2 A complaint with statutory declaration was filed against Mr Ang on 11 May 2020. The Complainant alleged professional misconduct concerning the negligent nose treatment ("**Nose Treatment**") that Mr Ang had administered, causing possible nasal folliculitis on the Complainant's right nose.

3 The Complainant consulted Mr Ang on 27 February 2020 for his "*stuffy nose*". After a quick look at the Complainant's nose, Mr Ang commented that his "*nose meat was small*" and proceeded to insert 2 thin and flat metal rods wrapped with cotton gauze at its tips (which were dipped into some unknown liquid) into the Complainant's nostrils for several minutes.

4 The Nose Treatment caused a strong burning sensation and the Complainant called out to Mr Ang for help twice due to the pain, but Mr Ang did not attend to him. The Complainant was then attended to by a middle-aged female person for payment, given some capsules and herbal powder, and told to return for follow-up consultation in 2 weeks' time.

5 During the second consultation on 12 March 2020, Mr Ang examined the Complainant's nose and wanted to use an extracting tool to extract dry skin and tissue from the Complainant's nostrils. The Complainant refused as he saw that the extracting tool was not sanitised. He also reported that his right nostril had been painful since the Nose Treatment, leaving a scar near his right nostril and a deviation of his nose to the right side which might require an x-ray.

6 On 24 April 2020, the Complainant consulted further medical treatment at Choa Chu Kang Polyclinic for the growing pain in his nose. He was referred to the National University Hospital. On 5 May 2020, he attended the Otolaryngology clinic at the National University Hospital. On examination, the Complainant's right antennal nose cartilage was reported to appear thickened compared to the left side and he was treated for possible nasal folliculitis.

7 No Written Explanation was furnished by Mr Ang despite due notice and an Inquiry Committee (IC) was convened by the Board to investigate into the Complaint. On the conclusion of hearing, the IC made the following findings:

- (a) Mr Ang failed to provide good clinical care to the Complainant during the consultation in contravention of Clause 4.1.1 of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines, in particular, failure to abide with Clauses 4.1.1(a) and (e) thereof. This is in breach of Regulation 2 of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Practice, Conduct and Ethics) Regulations, which amounted to a contravention of Section 19(1)(f) of the Act.
- (b) There was insufficient evidence to determine whether the medicines prescribed by Mr Ang to the Complainant complied with Clause 4.1.3 of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines.
- (c) Mr Ang was notified of the decision of the Board in IC 2018/4.
- (d) The Nose Treatment administered by Mr Ang to the Complainant was similar to the one administered by Mr Ang in IC 2018/4.

8 In determining the sanctions to be imposed on Mr Ang, the Board took into consideration that the documents and evidence presented at the IC hearing were not challenged by Mr Ang and the fact that Mr Ang at the material time when he administered the Nose Treatment, was still in suspension from TCM practice pursuant to the Board's decision in IC 2018/4.

9 Mr. Ang failed to provide good clinical care to the Complainant during the consultation. There was insufficient evidence to determine whether the medicines prescribed by Mr. Ang to the Complainant complied with Clause 4.1.3 of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines. Mr. Ang continued to administer the Nose Treatment despite knowing that it was not an appropriate or accepted method of TCM treatment and that he was in fact under suspension from practice as a TCM practitioner for a period of one year from 14 May 2019 to 13 May 2020.

10 Taking into consideration the IC's findings, the Board decided to cancel his TCM registration with effect from 12 January 2023, pursuant to Section 19(1) of the TCM Practitioners Act. Mr Ang was also ordered to pay for the costs and expenses of and incidental to the inquiry conducted and actions taken against him.

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD
18 APRIL 2023