

TCMB 3:7/1-1/A

31 Mar 2020

To all registered TCM practitioners

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPULSORY CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) SYSTEM

When news first broke on COVID-19 in Wuhan, China, we have never imagined it would impact us on such a global scale. Now termed by the World Health Organisation as a pandemic, there are over 780,000 cases worldwide, with over 870 cases in Singapore. While each of us has been impacted by COVID-19 in one way or another, we still have a duty to provide our best care and prevent harms to our patients. This is where the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) becomes even more important during this trying time.

2 The CPE Programme for TCM practitioners (TCMPs) was first implemented 7 years ago in 2013, to enable registered TCMPs to have updated and relevant professional knowledge, and to keep pace with continuous changes in the TCM landscape. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Amendment) Bill was passed in Parliament in Feb 2019 for compulsory CPE amongst other changes, and TCMPs were informed that compulsory CPE will be implemented from 1 Apr 2020.

3 The current outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting implementation of tighter social distancing measures by the Government to control further spread of COVID-19 have disrupted the organization of CPE events by TCM organisations. Many CPE classroom-based courses and lectures were cancelled or deferred. TCMPs have also expressed their anxieties and concerns of not being able to attend CPE courses to fulfil the CPE requirements.

4 We are aware of these challenges faced by both TCM organisations and TCMPs. After receiving feedback, TCMPB has collectively decided to remove the maximum CPE point cap from all categories. This means that TCM practitioners can obtain the entire 50 points from any category. For example, TCMPs can now obtain 50 CPE points from reading TCM-related book chapters and journal articles. With the current preventive measure of staying home to minimise the spread of COVID-19, TCMPs can now learn more from reading updated articles while staying at home.

5 The outbreak of the COVID-19 has provided a good opportunity for all TCMP organisations and TCM practitioners to change the learning method, and adopt online learning using IT learning platform to conduct lectures and seminars. CPE courses conducted online will also be accredited for CPE points under category 1A (short-term / structured training / teaching session) and 1B (lecture / conference / seminar / workshop). A good example is Thong Chai Medical Institution. They have already started to conduct online TCM courses for TCMPs through live streaming from China to participants in Singapore. TCM organisations will submit the attendance of e-learning on your behalf.

We have liaised with TCM organisations to convert / conduct CPE courses using internet and/or smartphone video conferencing applications. Other TCM institutions are also working on offering online courses and video conferences.

6 For details on the compulsory CPE framework and CPE points, please refer to Annex A for the “Guide on Compulsory Continuing Professional Education”. You may also refer to the Board’s website for the Guide on the use of the IT CPE system to submit CPE claims. Both Guides will be made available on the Board’s website www.tcmpb.gov.sg.

Support available for TCM practitioners to attend CPE courses

7 The Ministry of Health launched the \$5 million TCM Development Grant (TCMDG) on 1 Jan 2018 to support capability and capacity building of the TCM industry, including funding support for TCMPs to attend professional training such as CPE courses. Please refer to Annex B for more information on the TCMDG and how it can support your CPE learning.

8 You may also make use of your SkillsFuture credits to offset the course fees of CPE courses that are SkillsFuture accredited. You may enquire from the course provider whether your CPE course of interest is SkillsFuture accredited. For more information on SkillsFuture, please visit www.skillsfuture.sg.

Renewal of Practising Certificate (PC) in 2020

9 Please note that all registered TCMPs whose PC are expiring on 30 Jun 2020, will need to submit PC renewal application online through the Board’s website starting from 1 Apr 2020 to 31 May 2020. You do not have to meet the 50 CPE points requirement for PC renewal this year. The PC will be issued for a period of 2 years from 1 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2022. However, you must obtain 50 CPE points within 2 years starting from 1 Apr 2020 to 31 Mar 2022, before you can renew your PC in 2022.

10 In line with the government digital transformation initiatives, we have ceased sending hard copy PC renewal notices since 2019 and PC renewal notices will be sent to you via emails. Please ensure that your email address has been updated in the [Professional Registration System](#).

11 With the latest changes made to the CPE framework, this circular would supersede the earlier Board’s circular that was sent to all TCMPs in 2019. For clarification on the compulsory CPE programme and the renewal of PC, please email the Board Secretariat at tcmpb@spb.gov.sg.

12. Please stay vigilant and keep yourself healthy during this challenging time.

Yours faithfully



PROF LIM SHIH HUI
REGISTRAR
TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS BOARD

TCMB 3:7/1-1/A

2020年 3月 31日

致新加坡注册中医师：

强制性中医继续教育计划的实施

当新闻第一次报导新冠状病（COVID-19）在中国武汉爆发时，我们从来没有想象到它会影响全球的每个人。目前新冠状病（COVID-19）已被世界卫生组织称为大流行病。全球共有超过 780,000 起病例，在本地则有超过 870 起病例。虽然我们每个人都受到 2019 冠状病毒疾病(COVID-19)的影响，但我们仍然有责任提供最好的医疗护理，继续照顾病人。在这个艰难时期，持续中医继续教育（Continuing Professional Education, 简称 CPE）变得更加重要。

2 中医管理委员会于 2013 年（七年前）正式推出了中医继续教育计划，目的在于鼓励注册中医师持续提升自身的专业知识，确保所有中医师能“与时俱进”，为广大市民提供优质的传统中医药服务。2019 年 2 月国会通过了《中医注册法令修订版》，其中就包括了推行强制性中医专业继续教育计划，管委会也已就此通知了注册中医师强制性中医专业继续教育计划将在 2020 年 4 月 1 日起实行。

3 我们明白由于受 2019 新冠状病（COVID-19）的影响，加上政府最近所宣布的要确保人们保持社交距离以进一步控制疫情飙升的措施，和许多中国教授也不能依时前来讲课，许多海外课程和本地的大型中医药大会也被迫取消。因此继续教育课程主办机构的许多项目，工作坊，学术大会等都被逼停办，而中医师们也很焦急，担忧在这种情况下不知能否达到 2 年 50 学分要求。

4 我们意识到中医团体, 中医教育机构和中医师所面临的挑战。在收到反馈后，中医管理委员会集体决定把所有 CPE 项目的顶限给移除了。也就是说从 2020 年 4 月 1 日至 2022 年 3 月 31 日，你可以选择在任何的 CPE 项目课程里领取 50CPE 学分。例如你可以选择通过自我进修项目，在家阅读中医药书本或已受认可的专业刊物，领取到所需的 50 CPE 学分。

5 新冠状病（COVID-19）的爆发也给了中医团体，中医教育机构和中医师一个很好的机会来改变教学和学习方法，采用在线教学和学习。教学课程，讲座，学术会议，研讨会，和工作坊都可通过在线平台如电脑，互联网和智能手机视频学习。中医团体和中医教育机构, 采用创新的方法来举办 CPE 课程，如通过互联网，智能手机视频会议等把在项目 1A（短期规划培训，教学课程）与 1B（讲座，学术会议，研讨会，工作坊）改成在线项目，网上学习等，中医师也可以获取学分。举办这些中医网上学习的中医机构也能替参加课程的中医师在线呈报出席记录以获取学分。例如同济医药研究院就通过在线网上学习，把原本在中国举办的课程以视频方式让中医师在本地连线上课。其它的中医团体和中医教育机构也在尝试提供在线课程和视频会议。

6. 请参阅附件 A 的“强制性中医继续教育计划”指南。指南内容亦可在中医管理委员会（以下简称为“管委会”）网站 www.tcmpb.gov.sg 查阅。你也可以在管委会网站查阅“中医继续教育电脑指南”，了解如何上网提交呈报 CPE 学分。

中医师继续教育课程的资助

7. 卫生部在2018年1月1日推出了500万元的中医药发展补助金，以支持中医药业的能力与技能建设。当中，包括资助中医师的专业提升，例如进修CPE课程。欲知中医药发展补助金，资助中医师参加继续教育学习的相关讯息，请参阅附件B。

8. 中医师也可使用“个人技能创前程”（Skills Future）补助金，支付受“技能创前程”认证的继续教育课程。中医师可向继CPE课程主办机构，查询其课程是否获得“技能创前程”培训补助的合格认证。欲知更多有关技能创前程的详情，请浏览 www.skillsfuture.sg。

电子提交更新执业准证(2020年)事宜

9. 凡所持中医执业准证于2020年6月30到期者，皆须在2020年4月1日至2020年5月31日期间通过管委会网站，以网上在线形式提交执业准证更新申请。今年的执业准证更新申请，中医师不需要积累50CPE学分。执业准证更新有效时期两年，从2020年7月1日至2022年6月30日。中医师必须从有效时期2020年4月1日至2022年3月31日的两年内积累 50 CPE学分，才能在2022年更新执业准证。

10. 为了响应政府所推行的数码化转型计划，以提高生产力和效率，管委会将通过电子邮件形式发送执业准证更新通知，并已停止以邮寄方式发送执业准证更新通知函。请登入电脑 [Professional Registration System](#)更新你的电子邮件地址。

11. 由于对CPE的构架进行了更改，本通知函将取代中医管委会之前在2019年所发出的通知函。若欲进一步了解有关“强制性中医继续教育”与“中医师者更新执业准证”事宜，可电邮 tcmpb@spb.gov.sg 至管委会秘书处询问。

12. 在这个充满挑战的时刻，请保持警惕和维持健康。

特此通知

林诗晖教授
注册官
中医管理委员会

(该信件以英文为准，中文翻译仅供参考)