

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board

PRESS RELEASE

Suspension of Registration of Acupuncturist

1 **Tan Kang Hok (陈江河)**, of Poh Kong Medical Hall (保康药行), Depot Height Shopping Centre, Blk 108, Depot Road, #01-03, Singapore 100108 (latest practice place), a registered acupuncturist, was found guilty of the following complaints:

First Complaint:

Tan Kang Hok (“Tan”) was found to have prescribed and/or given some orange-red pills to a patient who subsequently developed Stevens-Johnson Syndrome as a result of the treatment rendered/ingesting the orange-red pills prescribed and/or dispensed by Tan. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome could be life-threatening and could have had serious consequences.

The Health Sciences Authority tested the orange-red pills and found that the pills contained Piroxicam, a controlled substance under the Poisons Act. Although Tan is and was not permitted to prescribe and/or dispense medicine to patients, Tan prescribed the orange-red pills to the patient. Tan’s conduct was in breach of Sections 19(1)(f) and 19(1)(i) of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act (“the Act”), Regulation 3 of the TCM Practitioners (Practice, Conduct and Ethics) Regulations (“the Regulations”) and Clauses 4.1.1(a), 4.1.1(e) and 4.1.2 of the “Ethical Codes and Ethical Guidelines for TCM Practitioners” (“the Ethical Code”).

Second Complaint:

Tan was found to have prescribed and/or dispensed “Xiao Yao Wan” (逍遥丸) to another patient and this contravened Section 19(1)(f) of the Act and Clauses 4.1.1(a) and 4.1.1(e), 4.1.2 of the Ethical Code as well as Regulation 3 of the Regulations in that he had prescribed and/or dispensed medicine when he should not and had failed to keep proper and accurate records of the treatment he administered to the patient.

2 The TCM Practitioners Board (the “Board”) also took note of the fact that Tan was given a warning by the Board on 1 April 2007 not to prescribe and/or dispense medicine to patients and to ensure that he maintained proper and accurate medical records in accordance to Clause 4.1.2 of the Ethical Code. Tan did not heed the Board’s warning and continued to prescribe and/or dispense medicines to patients.

3 Upon considering the findings of Investigation Committee (IC 2010/2) and Tan’s mitigation plea before the Board, the Board decided that Tan had breached Section 19(1)(f) and (i) of the Act and Clauses 4.1.1(a), 4.1.1(e) and 4.1.2 of the Ethical Code. The Board imposed the following sanctions against Tan Kang Hok pursuant to Section 19(2) of the Act:

- a) To suspend Tan’s registration as an acupuncturist for 3 years (suspension to start on 1 Feb 2012);
- b) To censure Tan;
- c) To impose a penalty of \$10,000;

- d) To pay costs and expense of or incidental to the inquiry before the Investigation Committee pursuant to Section 20 of the Act.

In addition, the Board also required Tan to provide a written undertaking to the Board that he would not prescribe, dispense and/or give any form of medicine to his patients in the future.

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD 中医管理委员会
24 Feb 2012