

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board

PRESS RELEASE

Suspension of Registration of Acupuncturist

1 **Sim Pern Yuen (沈鹏远)**, of Nam Wah Pai Traditional Chinese Physician Centre (南华派骨伤科理疗服务中心), Blk 123, Yishun Street 11, #01-499, Chong Pang View, Singapore 760123 (principal place of practice), a registered acupuncturist, was found guilty of the complaint related to the treatment rendered by Mr Sim to a minor patient (a Primary 4 pupil) who had a fall and injured his left arm. Mr Sim diagnosed the patient as having sustained dislocations at the elbow and shoulder portion of the arm. He rendered treatment on the patient's left arm. He also dispensed 56 CPM tablets in 4 unlabelled small transparent packets to the patient. The patient was brought to a polyclinic for X-ray the next day and found that the patient suffered from bone fractures on the left arm. The complainant alleged that Mr Sim should not have rendered treatment to the patient or prescribed and dispensed the CPM tablets to the patient.

2 An inquiry was conducted over the matters raised in the complaint. Following investigation, the Board made the following determinations: -

- (a) That Mr Sim prescribed and/or dispensed fifty-six (56) tablets in four (4) unlabelled transparent packets to a patient on 29 February 2012 when the patient attended at Nam Wah Pai Chinese Physician Centre ("the Clinic") together with the complainant to seek treatment from Mr Sim;
- (b) That Mr Sim should not have treated the patient when he suspected that the patient had a bone related injury;
- (c) That in prescribing and/or dispensing the aforesaid tablets/medicine, Mr Sim acted in contravention of his registration as an acupuncturist under the Traditional Chinese Medicines Practitioners Board Act ("the Act"), the Board Notice 2007/1 dated 1 June 2007 and the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCM Practitioners ("the Ethical Code"); and
- (d) That Mr Sim's conduct amounted to a breach of Section 19(1)(f) and (i) of the Act.

3 The Board imposed the following sanctions against Mr Sim pursuant to Section 19(2) of the Act:

- a) To suspend Mr Sim's registration as an acupuncturist for a period of 2 months (suspension starts on 1 June 2013);
 - b) To impose a penalty of \$2,000;
 - c) To censure Sim;
- and
- 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 Mr Sim to provide a written undertaking to the Board that he would not prescribe or dispense medicine to his patients or attempt to treat bone related injuries in the future.

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD 中医管理委员会
5 June 2013