

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board  
PRESS RELEASE**

**Suspension of Registration of TCM Physician**

**KOH CHEW KAI (许週楷)**

**Koh Chew Kai (许週楷)**, of Choon Chiang Tong Medical Hall (俊昌堂药行) at Blk 94 Lorong 4 Toa Payoh, #01-18, Singapore 310094, is a registered TCM physician and a registered acupuncturist.

2 Health Science Authority (HSA) forwarded a complaint to the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners Board that Koh Chew Kai prescribed and dispensed “U O Cream”, a registered western medicine (SIN8347P) to a patient for treatment of psoriasis. It was also established that there was unlicensed assembling activity, and a warning was issued to Koh by HSA. As the prescribing and supply of western medicines by TCM practitioners are prohibited under the TCM Practitioners Board’s Ethical Code and Guidelines, HSA forwarded the matter to the Board for necessary action.

3 An Investigation Committee (“IC”) Inquiry was subsequently conducted, and the following findings were made against Koh:

- (a) The treatment rendered by Koh to the patient, including the prescription and/or dispensation of the medicated cream, i.e. “U O Cream”, a registered western medicine (SIN8347P), was not in accordance with his registration as a TCM physician under the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act (“the Act”) and Clause 4.1.3 of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCM Practitioners.
- (b) In spite of the Board’s Notice and Warning on 20 May 2005 to all TCM practitioners that they are not allowed to and should not prescribe western medicines or Chinese medicines mixed with western medicines, Koh had prescribed and dispensed the “U O Cream”, a registered western medicine (SIN8347P) to his patient.
- (c) Koh’s conduct amounted to a breach of Sections 19(1)(f), (i) and (j) of the TCM Practitioners Act (the “Act”).

4 The Board decided to impose the following sanction against Koh pursuant to Section 19(2) of the Act:

- (a) To suspend Koh’s registration as a TCM physician and as an acupuncturist for a period of one (1) month, with suspension which took effect from 1 July 2015;
- (b) To impose a financial penalty of \$4,000; and
- (c) To censure Koh.

Further, Koh has been directed by the Board to give a written undertaking that he will not commit the same breach again, i.e. that he will not prescribe and/or dispense western medicine again.

5 In addition, pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Act, the Board also ordered Koh to pay costs and expenses of or incidental to the inquiry or investigation conducted or action taken against Koh by the Board.

6 The Board would wish to highlight that pursuant to Clause 4.1.3 of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCM practitioners, a TCM physician may only prescribe herbal medicines that are legally available in Singapore and must comply with all relevant statutory requirements governing their use as defined in the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act Section 2. "Herbal medicine" means any material or product known or claimed to have therapeutic or other health benefits which contains either raw or processed ingredients of plant, inorganic or animal origin.

7 TCM practitioners are reminded once again that they are not allowed to and should not prescribe/dispense western medicines, including external creams to their patients. Such practices may lead to adverse consequences for their patients. The Board would not hesitate to take appropriate action against those TCM practitioners who do carry out such practices.

**TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD**  
**15 Jul 2015**