

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board
PRESS RELEASE**

Suspension of Registration of TCM Physician

CHEONG THIAM MUI (张添梅)

Mdm Cheong Thiam Mui (张添梅), of Cheong's Clinic (张氏药房) at 175 Bencoolen Street, #01-38 Burlington Square, Singapore 189649 is a registered TCM physician and a registered acupuncturist.

2 A complaint was received by the TCM Practitioners Board that Cheong had issued as many as 122 medical certificates to 109 students of a private education academy for the period from 2 December 2013 to 12 March 2014 knowing that the medical certificates and the representations stated therein would be relied on by third parties. The complainant alleged that these medical certificates were issued without adequate TCM evaluation of the students' medical condition.

3 An Investigation Committee ("IC") Inquiry was subsequently conducted, and Cheong was found guilty of the following:

- (a) Cheong's practice with regard to the issuance of medical certificates was very liberal, without proper TCM examination of the patients.
- (b) There was no proper TCM examination of 4 students by Cheong and she did not keep proper patients' records of the 4 students' main medical complaints, her diagnosis, treatments and the circumstances requiring her to issue the medical certificates to them.
- (c) Having regard to the findings made in relation to the issues above, the IC also found that Cheong had misrepresented the facts in the medical certificates issued by her for the 4 students, and she knew that such facts would be relied on by third parties.

Following from the findings made by the IC, the IC found that the issuance of the medical certificates by Cheong to the 4 students, amounted to professional misconduct and/or negligence and/or improper act or conduct under Sections 19(1)(i) and 19(1)(j) of the TCM Practitioners Act respectively, and breach of Clauses 4.1.1(a) and 4.1.2 of the Ethical Code for TCM Practitioners.

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

- (a) suspension of Cheong's registration as a TCM physician and as an acupuncturist for a period of 3 months, with suspension to commence on 1 August 2015;
- (b) impose a financial penalty of S\$2,000;
- (c) that Cheong is to give a written undertaking that she will not issue medical certificates without proper TCM examination of her patients and that she will keep proper patients' records of all her patients in accordance with the Ethical Code for TCM Practitioners and relevant regulations; and

(d) censure.

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

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD
12 August 2015