

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board
PRESS RELEASE**

Suspension of Registration of TCM Physician

YAP KWOK ANN JOSEPH (叶国安)

1. **Yap Kwok Ann Joseph (叶国安)** of Annie Tiang TCM Pte Ltd at 11 East Coast Road #01-01 The Odeon Katong Singapore 428722 (the “**Clinic**”) is a Traditional Chinese Medicine (“**TCM**”) physician registered with the TCM Practitioners Board.
2. The Board received a complaint against Yap by a Complainant concerning Yap’s treatment of her on 6 December 2015. The Complainant had previously undergone a surgical procedure for her ectopic pregnancy about three weeks prior to 6 December 2015, and attended the Clinic for tuina massage and TCM treatment. At the Clinic, Mr Yap administered, amongst others, “blood-letting” therapy treatment on the Complainant’s throat area.
3. The Board conducted an inquiry and made the following findings:
 - (a) Yap did not carry out appropriate TCM inquiries on the Complainant’s medical history of ectopic pregnancy, cough for 6 months, general fatigue and condition of blood deficiency before proceeding with the blood-letting therapy treatment. This was in breach of paragraph 4.1.1(a) of the Ethical Code.
 - (b) Yap did not inform the Complainant of the treatment options for cough, the benefits, risks and possible complications of the blood-letting therapy treatment, and did not obtain the Complainant’s informed consent in accordance with paragraph 4.2.2 of the Ethical Code. In failing to do so, he has acted in contravention of paragraph 4.2.2 of the Ethical Code.
 - (c) With regard to the Complainant’s recent surgical procedure for ectopic pregnancy as well as his diagnosis that the Complainant was suffering from blood deficiency, Yap should not have carried out the blood-letting therapy treatment on the Complainant. This was in contravention of paragraph 4.1.1(e) of the Ethical Code.
 - (d) The blood-letting therapy treatment was carried out by Yap on the Complainant without due regard to the Complainant’s safety and well-being, and caused the Complainant to lose consciousness, suffer chest pains, dizziness and general discomfort. This was in breach of paragraphs 4.1.1(a) and 4.1.1(e) of the Ethical Code.
4. Having regard to the above, the Board found that Yap’s aforesaid conduct amounted to a breach of Sections 19(1)(f), 19(1)(i) and 19(1)(j) of the TCM Practitioners Act.
5. The Board decided to impose the following sanctions against Yap pursuant to Section 19(2) of the TCM Practitioners Act:
 - (a) suspension of his registration as a TCM physician for a period of 6 months with effect from 1 December 2017;

- (b) impose a financial penalty of S\$10,000;
 - (c) that he provides an undertaking that he will not commit the same or similar offences in future; and
 - (d) censure.
6. In addition, pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Act, Yap was ordered to pay costs and expenses of or incidental to the inquiry.

TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD
30 November 2017