

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Suspension of Registration as TCM Practitioner**

Mr Ang Tick Waa (翁德华) is a registered Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioner. At all material times, Mr Ang practised at Angsan Chinese Physician & Medical Hall, located at Blk 635, Ang Mo Kio Ave 6, #01-5127, Singapore 560635.

2 On 17 March 2017, a complaint, by way of a statutory declaration, was lodged against Mr Ang, alleging medical negligence and professional misconduct (the “**Complaint**”). The Complainant had consulted Mr Ang on several occasions from March 2015 to July 2015 (the “**Consultations**”) for treatment of his nasal problems, including backflow of mucus.

3 During the Consultations, Mr Ang would administer a nose treatment on the Complainant involving a two-stage process (the “**Nose Treatment**”). In the first stage, Mr Ang would first insert a flat, thin metal tool with a gauze dipped in some medication at the tip into the Complainant’s nostrils for several minutes. The Complainant would return for the second stage of the treatment, where Mr Ang would use a forceps-like instrument to remove some substance / tissue / dry skin from the Complainant’s nostrils. The Complainant alleged that Mr Ang had carried out inappropriate nasal treatment on him and caused his nose to be deviated to the right.

4 Following the Complaint and subsequent to reviewing the Written Explanations provided by Mr Ang, an Investigation Committee (“**IC**”) inquiry was convened by the Board to investigate the Complaint. After completing its investigations, the IC made, *inter alia*, the following findings in respect to the Complaint:

- (a) By Mr Ang’s own admission, he had failed to carry out an adequate assessment of the Complainant’s condition and TCM clinical examination during the Consultations. This was corroborated by the Complainant’s evidence that Mr Ang did not perform an adequate clinical assessment during the Consultations and the fact that the Complainant’s patient medical record kept by Mr Ang revealed an absence of any such observations and findings. Accordingly, Mr Ang has breached Clause 4.1.1(a) of the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCM practitioners (the “**Ethical Code**”) and Regulation 2 of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Practice, Conduct and Ethics) Regulations (the “**TCMP (PCE) Regulations**”) which amounted to a contravention of Section 19(1)(f) of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act (Cap. 333A) (the “**Act**”).
- (b) By Mr Ang’s further admission, the Nose Treatment is not an appropriate and accepted form of TCM treatment. In this regard, the IC highlighted that Mr Ang had refused to answer the IC as to whether the medication used in the Nose Treatment was TCM or Western medicine and/or provide a picture

of the instrument that he had used in the Nose Treatment. By failing to use appropriate and accepted forms of TCM treatment, Mr Ang had exposed the Complainant to the risk of possible harm and injury. The IC found that the Nose Treatment administered by Mr Ang on the Complainant was not an appropriate and accepted method of TCM under Clause 4.1.1(e) of the Ethical Code, which amounted to a breach of Regulation 2 of the TCMP (PCE) Regulations, which in turn amounted to a breach of Section 19(1)(i) of the Act.

- (c) The IC found that there was insufficient evidence to prove that the Nose Treatment or any treatment rendered by Mr Ang to the Complainant had caused the Complainant's nose/nasal septum to be shifted or deviated.

5 The IC considered the following factors to be relevant in deciding the appropriate recommended sentence to be made to the Board in respect of Mr Ang's offences: -

- (a) This was Mr Ang's first offence.
- (b) Mr Ang was not apologetic or remorseful for his actions and breaches of the Ethical Code and the Act.
- (c) The nature and seriousness of Mr Ang's breaches, and his deliberate and intentional breach of the Ethical Code and the Act in rendering the Nose Treatment.
- (d) Mr Ang's refusal to co-operate and answer questions during the inquiry before the IC.

6 Having regard to the aforesaid determinations, the Board has decided to accept the findings of the IC and impose the following sanctions against Mr Ang pursuant to Section 19(2) of the Act:

- (a) a suspension of Mr Ang's registration as a TCM practitioner for a period of 1 year;
- (b) a financial penalty of S\$5,000;
- (c) a censure; and
- (d) an order that Mr Ang's registration (after the period of suspension) be subject to the condition that Mr Ang provides the following written undertakings to the Board:
  - (i) That he will cease using his method of intrusive nose treatment on all patients;

- (ii) That he will not use, prescribe or administer any western or non-TCM medicine; and
- (iii) That he will carry out proper and adequate TCM assessment and clinical examination of all his patients in accordance with Clause 4.1.1(a) of the Ethical Code.

7 Should Mr Ang be found to have breached any of his undertakings listed from paragraphs 6 (i) to 6 (iii), his registration as a TCM practitioner may be revoked without further reference to him. Moreover, pursuant to Section 20(1) of the Act, the Board will also be directing Mr Ang to pay for all costs and expenses of and incidental to the inquiry conducted and action taken against him.

8 All registered TCM practitioners should use appropriate or accepted methods of TCM treatment on their patients in accordance with Clause 4.1.1 (e) of the Ethical Code. If a TCM practitioner is in doubt as to whether a certain method of TCM treatment is an appropriate and accepted method of TCM treatment, the TCM practitioner should seek necessary clarification from the Board prior to administering any such treatment on his/her patients. The Board reminds all registered TCM practitioners of their obligation to comply with the Ethical Code and takes a serious view towards any breaches of the same, in particular, the administering of any unorthodox treatments which place the safety of patients at risk.

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**TCM PRACTITIONERS BOARD 中医管理委员会**  
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