



## SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR NG WEI SENG

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") inquiry was held for Dr Ng Wei Seng ("Dr Ng"), of London (MH) Clinic & Surgery located at Block 104 Hougang Avenue 1 #01-1123 Singapore 530104 on 20 August 2010. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") dated 4 December 2008 by the Ministry of Health.
2. Dr Ng pleaded guilty to 17 charges of professional misconduct in failing to exercise due care in the management of his patients. The charges relate to (a) inappropriately prescribing benzodiazepines and/or cough mixtures over varying periods of treatment; (b) failing to record or document details or sufficient details of the patients' diagnosis, symptoms, condition, advice given and/or management plan in the respective patient's Patient Medical Records; and (c) failing to refer patients to a medical specialist for further management.
3. The DC came to the following conclusions:
  - (a) hypnotic medication is prescribed for patients who have insomnia or as anxiolytics for the short term relief of anxiety. However, long-term consumption of hypnotics may lead to drug dependence and tolerance and it is incumbent on all medical practitioners to be apprised of the current medical standards and prescribing practice in the interests of their patients;
  - (b) Dr Ng had acted in disregard of his professional duties since the prolonged prescription of benzodiazepines and cough medication without specialist referral or proper medical records is inappropriate and unprofessional. There is also a lack of management plan, a requirement stipulated by the relevant medical guidelines;
  - (c) it is important and in the interest of physicians to maintain proper patients' records, as ultimately these records will form the primary evidence of the work and treatment by

them. Further, these records also contain the patients' medical history, and failure in this respect will affect the well-being of the patients. Dr Ng's failure to maintain proper medical records amounted to professional misconduct;

(d) the professional misconduct of improper prescription of hypnotics attracts substantial punishment, which usually involves a period of suspension for a medical practitioner.

4. Taking into account the evidence and the mitigating factors, the DC ordered that Dr Ng:

(a) be suspended for a period of **3 months**,

(b) be fined **\$2,000**;

(c) be censured;

(d) provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of, or of any similar conduct; and

(e) bear the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the counsel to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.

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