



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

16 College Road, #01-01 College of Medicine Building, Singapore 169854

E-mail Address: enquiries@smc.gov.sg

Website: <http://www.smc.gov.sg>

Fax Number: (65) 6258-2134

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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR TAN BOON HUAT

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") Inquiry ("the inquiry") was held on 29 June 2011 for Dr Tan Boon Huat, age 62 years, who practised at B H Tan Medical Clinic located at 619C Bukit Timah Road Singapore 269723. The inquiry arose from a complaint dated 12 December 2007 by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC").
2. Dr Tan pleaded guilty to 33 charges of professional misconduct for failing to exercise due care in the management of his patients with benzodiazepines and other hypnotics.
3. The substance of the charges against Dr Tan is that he failed to exercise due care in the management of his patients by inappropriately prescribing benzodiazepines and other hypnotics either in terms of the amount prescribed or in terms of the duration over which they were prescribed for the patients.
4. The DC found that a medical practitioner ought to be aware of, and should adhere to the relevant guidelines for the prescription of benzodiazepines issued by MOH as such misconduct involving inappropriate prescription of benzodiazepines and other hypnotics would bring disrepute to the medical profession.
5. The DC also noted that such misconduct should attract a punishment involving a term of suspension in view of the potential harm to patients that may arise from inappropriate prescription of benzodiazepines and other hypnotics.
6. Taking the evidence and mitigating factors into consideration, the DC ordered that Dr Tan be suspended from practice for **4 months**, be fined **\$4,000** and censured. The DC also ordered that Dr Tan provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of, or any similar conduct. Dr Tan was also ordered

to pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the counsel to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.

7. The DC also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
8. Dr Tan's 4-months suspension took effect on 1 August 2011.

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