



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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22 November 2011

PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR TAN TECK HONG

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") Inquiry ("Inquiry") was held on 11 October 2011 for Dr Tan Teck Hong ("Dr Tan"), age 54 years, who was a general practitioner having his practice at Excelsior Clinic and Surgery located at Blk 283 Bukit Batok East Ave 3 #01-261 Singapore 650283 at the material time. The inquiry arose from a complaint dated 1 February 2010 to the Singapore Medical Council ("SMC") by the Ministry of Health.
2. Dr Tan faced 16 charges of professional misconduct for failing to exercise due care in the management of his patients by inappropriately prescribing benzodiazepines and codeine containing cough mixtures. Dr Tan pleaded guilty to all 16 charges at the Inquiry and accordingly, the DC convicted him of the charges.
3. The DC, having considered the duration of the treatment and the amount of benzodiazepines and codeine containing cough mixtures prescribed by Dr Tan, found the degree of failure to take due care in the management of Dr Tan's patients to be significant. The DC further noted that without proper management of his patients, Dr Tan's patients could have become addicted to benzodiazepines and codeine-containing medication; or worse, Dr Tan was simply fuelling an existing addiction.
4. Further, the DC felt that there was a clear need to deter medical practitioners from committing such acts for what they see as obvious financial gains from the practice of indiscriminately prescribing benzodiazepines and codeine-containing medication.

5. Taking the evidence and mitigating factors into consideration, the DC ordered that Dr Tan be suspended from practice for a period of 3 months, be fined \$5,000 and censured. The DC also ordered that Dr Tan provides a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of, or of any similar conduct. Dr Tan was also ordered to bear the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the counsels to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.
6. The DC also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
7. Dr Tan's 3-month suspension took effect on 11 November 2011.

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