



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY FOR DR TAN KEOK KUAN DAVID

1. A Disciplinary Committee (DC) Inquiry ("Inquiry") was held for Dr Tan Keok Kuan David ("Dr Tan"), age 49 years, a General Practitioner of Yishun Central Clinic, 935 Yishun Central 1 #01-47, Singapore 760935, on 6 September 2011. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) dated 6 March 2008 by the Ministry of Health.
2. Dr Tan initially faced 15 charges of professional misconduct for failing to exercise due care in the management of his patients with Subutex (buprenorphine), and/or Stilnox (benzodiazepine).
3. The charges against Dr Tan was that he failed to exercise due care in the management of his patients by inappropriately prescribing Subutex or Stilnox either in terms of the amount prescribed or in terms of the duration over which they were prescribed for the patients. Dr Tan also failed to formulate or adhere to any management plan for the treatment of his patients' medical conditions and failed to maintain in his case notes, details or sufficient details of his patients' history, diagnosis, symptoms and/or condition and/or management plan such as to enable him to properly assess the medical condition of the patients over the period of treatment.
4. Following representations by Dr Tan, the DC proceeded on 8 charges which Dr Tan pleaded guilty to. The DC accepted Dr Tan's plea of guilt and accordingly found him guilty of the 8 charges. In making its decision that Dr Tan had failed to exercise due care and management of his patients, the DC also considered several mitigating factors which Dr Tan, a first time offender, had submitted.

5. In the circumstances, taking the evidence and mitigating factors into consideration, the DC ordered that:
 - a. Dr Tan's registration in the Register of Medical Practitioners be suspended for a period of **3 months**;
 - b. Dr Tan be censured;
 - c. A fine of **\$3,000** be imposed;
 - d. Dr Tan provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of, or of any similar conduct; and
 - e. Dr Tan bears the costs and expenses of and incidental to the proceedings, including the costs of the counsel to the Council and the Legal Assessor.
6. The DC ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.
7. Dr Tan's 3-month suspension took effect on 6 October 2011.

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