



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 COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR LIM CHONG HEE

1. A Disciplinary Committee (“**DC**”) Inquiry (“**Inquiry**”) was held for Dr Lim Chong Hee (“**Dr Lim**”), a Cardiothoracic Surgeon age 46 years, who is currently and was at the material time, a registered medical practitioner and a Senior Consultant at the National Heart Centre, Mistri Wing, Singapore General Hospital, 17 Third Hospital Avenue, Singapore 168752.
2. Dr Lim faced one charge of professional misconduct under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174) in respect of his failure to adequately record his discussion on 7 June 2007 with a patient (“**the Patient**”) of (a) a possible lobectomy and (b) the Patient’s consent to the lobectomy in his medical records (“**the Charge**”). On 4 May 2012, Dr Lim pleaded guilty to the Charge, and accordingly the DC convicted him of the Charge.
3. The DC emphasised that the maintenance of proper medical records is an important aspect of medical treatment. Apart from being an important part of the treatment of patients, proper medical record keeping is also crucial in avoiding disputes between a doctor and his patient. The DC stated that to this end, medical records are important and for the benefit of a patient as well as a doctor, and serious punishment can be meted out if the circumstances so warrant.
4. The DC noted that the present case involved an oversight in recording, and that a distinction must be made between cases where there was no informed consent obtained and one where consent was obtained but was not recorded.
5. The DC accepted that Dr Lim has had a long unblemished record of 22 years’ medical practice and impressive testimonials, and that he had co-operated with

the SMC with the saving of costs and time. The DC also noted that the Patient's Complaint and the Inquiry had been hanging over Dr Lim's head over the last few years. However, the DC noted that Dr Lim is a senior medical practitioner, of which a higher standard is expected by the public and the medical profession, and having held important appointments, he is in the position where he sets standards and is a role model for junior practitioners.

6. Taking into consideration the mitigating factors and the circumstances of the case, the DC ordered that Dr Lim be fined \$5,000 and censured. The DC also ordered that Dr Lim provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of or any similar conduct. Dr Lim 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.

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