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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR CHAI CHWAN

1. A Disciplinary Committee ("DC") Inquiry ("Inquiry") was held for Dr Chai Chwan ("Dr Chai"), age 47 years, who was at the material time, the licensee and owner of Little Cross Family Clinic at Blk 915, Tampines St 91, #01-41, Singapore 520915 and My Little Family Clinic at Blk 1, Jalan Bukit Merah, #01-4538, Singapore 150001.
2. The Inquiry proceedings arose out of two complaints by the Ministry of Health ("MOH") dated 10 August 2007 and 30 April 2008 relating to Dr Chai's practice at Little Cross Family Clinic and My Little Family Clinic respectively ("the MOH Complaints"). The charges arising under the MOH Complaints were consolidated and proceeded as a single inquiry into Dr Chai's conduct.
3. Dr Chai faced a total of 71 charges which can be categorized in two broad groups as follows:
 - a) The first group of charges related to Dr Chai's management of patients for whom he prescribed Subutex ("the Subutex Charges"). Dr Chai faced a total of 49 Subutex Charges, comprising 27 Subutex Charges in relation to patients seen at Little Cross Family Clinic and 22 Subutex Charges in relation to patients seen at My Little Family Clinic.
 - b) The second group of charges which Dr Chai faced comprised 22 charges arising only from the MOH Complaint dated 30 April 2008 in respect of his practice at My Little Family Clinic (the "Financial Conflict Charges"). Dr Chai was charged with misconduct for allegedly introducing, implementing and/or participating in two financial schemes:
 - (i) the Incentive Scheme whereby existing patients who referred new patients to the clinic would enjoy a discount on future treatment; and
 - (ii) the Surcharge Scheme whereby the clinic would charge patients, who require Subutex, a 'surcharge' for returning to the clinic earlier than previously agreed.

4. Pursuant to certain representations made by Dr Chai, the Prosecution proceeded on:
 - (i) 15 out of 49 of the Subutex Charges, comprising 11 Subutex Charges in relation to Dr Chai's practice at Little Cross Family Clinic and 4 Subutex Charges in relation to his practice at My Little Family Clinic; and
 - (ii) 16 out of 22 of the Financial Conflict Charges in relation to Dr Chai's practice at My Little Family Clinic.
5. The DC accepted Dr Chai's plea of guilt in respect of the above-mentioned 31 charges and accordingly found him guilty of the said 31 charges.
6. After taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the number of charges, the Agreed Statement of Facts and the points raised by counsel for Dr Chai in mitigation, the DC sentenced Dr Chai as follows:
 - a) On the Subutex Charges, Dr Chai to pay a fine of **\$5,000**;
 - b) On the Financial Conflict Charges, Dr Chai to pay a fine of **\$3,000**;
 - c) On both sets of charges, Dr Chai to be censured;
 - d) On both sets of charges, Dr Chai to give the following undertakings as to his future conduct:
 - (i) To manage his patients and prescribe medication with more rigour;
 - (ii) To keep proper records of his consultations with his patients; and
 - (iii) Not to enter into any arrangements with his patients which breach Section 4.6.2 of the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines; and
 - e) That he bear the costs and expenses of and incidental to the proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC and the Legal Assessor.
7. The DC also ordered that the Grounds of Decision be published.

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