



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

2 April 2012

PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR CHIN MUN FOO DAVID

1. A Disciplinary Committee (DC) Inquiry ("Inquiry") was held on 16 February 2012 for Dr Chin Mun Foo David ("Dr Chin"), age 53 years, an employee of My Little Family Clinic, Block 1, Jln Bukit Merah, #01-4538, Singapore 150001 at the material time. The proceedings arose out of a complaint to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) dated 30 April 2008 by the Ministry of Health.

2. Dr Chin faced a total of 46 charges for failing to exercise due care in the management of his patients, which can be grouped into two broad categories:

a. In the first group of 23 charges, Dr Chin was charged with misconduct in relation to the over-prescription of Subutex and the lack of proper management of his patients in relation to the prescription of Subutex ("the Improper Prescription Charges"). These charges spanned the period both before and after the introduction of the 2005 Ministry of Health Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Treatment of Opiate Dependence; and

b. In the second group of 23 charges ("Financial Scheme Charges"), Dr Chin 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 which Dr Chin worked at would charge patients, who require Subutex, a 'surcharge' for returning to the clinic earlier than previously agreed.

3. Dr Chin pleaded guilty to, and was convicted on 15 out of the 23 Improper Prescription Charges.
4. He contested all 23 Financial Scheme Charges.
5. Upon considering the evidence and submissions by both Counsel for SMC and the Respondent, the DC acquitted Dr Chin in respect of the 23 Financial Scheme Charges.
6. Taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the number of charges, the Agreed Statement of Facts and the points raised by Dr Chin in his plea in mitigation in respect of the Improper Prescription Charges, the DC ordered that Dr Chin be fined \$6,000 and censured. The DC also ordered that Dr Chin provide a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of in relation to the Improper Prescription Charges, or of any similar conduct. Dr Chin was also ordered to bear the costs and expenses of and incidental to the proceedings in relation to the Improper Prescription Charges, 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.

- END -