



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY FOR DR KWAN WAI CHEE

1. On 12 March 2012, a Disciplinary Committee (DC) Inquiry was held for Dr Kwan Wai Chee ("Dr Kwan"), age 43 years.
2. The proceedings arose from a complaint dated 22 December 2008 by the Ministry of Health to the Singapore Medical Council (SMC). At the time of the complaint, Dr Kwan was practising as a General Practitioner at the Bishan Grace Clinic located at Blk 150 Bishan Street 11, #01-151, Singapore 570150.
3. Dr Kwan pleaded guilty to 10 charges of professional misconduct for failing to exercise due care in the management and/or treatment of her patients relating to the inappropriate prescription of Hypnotics and cough mixtures containing codeine. In addition, the SMC and Dr Kwan gave consent for 10 similar charges to be taken into consideration by the DC for the purposes of sentencing.
4. The particulars of the charges against Dr Kwan included :-
 - (a) inappropriate prescription of Hypnotics (including Benzodiazepines) and/or codeine-containing cough mixtures to patients;
 - (b) failure to maintain in the patient's medical records sufficient details of the assessment of the patient and the need to continue repeat and regular prescription of codeine-containing cough mixtures;
 - (c) failure to warn her patients of potential addiction to cough mixtures (containing codeine) or Hypnotics;
 - (d) failure to refer the patient to a medical specialist and/or a psychiatrist for further and/or joint management; and/or

- (e) concomitant prescriptions of two Hypnotics to some patients.
5. The DC noted relevant factors including :-
- (a) there was an unusually high volume of medication prescribed to some of the patients;
 - (b) there was a significant amount collected from these patients given the quantity of medication prescribed before the MOH audit; and
 - (c) there were inadequate notes in the Patient Medical Records which did not appear to contain any plan for the management of these patients.
6. The DC considered mitigating factors including:-
- (a) Dr Kwan was a first-time offender; and
 - (b) Dr Kwan had pleaded guilty which did save time and costs.
7. In the circumstances, taking the evidence and mitigating factors into consideration, the DC ordered that Dr Kwan :-
- (a) be suspended from practice for a period of **4 months**;
 - (b) be fined the sum of **\$5,000**;
 - (c) be censured;
 - (d) give a written undertaking to the Medical Council that she will not engage in the conduct complained of or any similar conduct; and
 - (e) pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these inquiry proceedings, including the costs of the SMC's counsel and the Legal Assessor.
8. The DC also ordered that the grounds and outcome of the Inquiry be published.
9. Dr Kwan's 4-month suspension took effect on 12 April 2012.

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