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12 May 2014

PRESS RELEASE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL INQUIRY FOR DR BOON SENG POH

1. On 26 March 2014, a Disciplinary Tribunal (“DT”) Inquiry was conducted for Dr Boon Seng Poh (“Dr Boon”), age 46 years.
2. The proceedings arose from a complaint by the Ministry of Health to the Singapore Medical Council (“SMC”). At the time of the complaint, Dr Boon practised as a General Practitioner at the BSP Clinic located at 10 Ubi Crescent #02-08 Ubi Techpark (Lobby A), Singapore 408564.
3. Dr Boon pleaded guilty to 15 charges of professional misconduct for failure to provide appropriate care, management and treatment to his patients through inappropriate prescription of hypnotics. In addition, 3 charges of a similar nature were taken into consideration by the DT for the purposes of sentencing.
4. The particulars of the charges against Dr Boon included:
 - (a) The inappropriate prescription of hypnotics to his patients in breach of the SMC’s Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines;
 - (b) The failure to maintain in patients’ medical records sufficient details as to the need for concurrent prescription of hypnotics and the manner in which such patients were supposed to consume the two different hypnotics; and
 - (c) The failure to treat his patients in consultation with a medical specialist or failing to refer his patients to a medical specialist and/or a psychiatrist for further and/or joint management.

5. In arriving at its decision in relation to the sentence to be meted out to Dr Boon, the DT also considered the submissions by Dr Boon's counsel and the SMC's counsel on the appropriate sentence to be meted out as well as the following mitigating factors:
 - (a) Dr Boon's remorsefulness and early plea of guilt;
 - (b) Dr Boon's efforts to taper his patients off hypnotics; and
 - (c) Dr Boon's contributions to the society, the medical profession and the good testimonials from his patients.

6. In the circumstances, taking the submissions of the parties and the sentencing precedents into consideration, the DT ordered that Dr Boon:
 - (a) be suspended from medical practice for a period of 3 months;
 - (b) pay a penalty of S\$5,000;
 - (c) be censured;
 - (d) give a written undertaking to the SMC that he will not engage in the conduct complained of or any similar conduct; and
 - (e) pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to the proceedings, including the costs of the solicitors to the SMC.

7. The DT also ordered the grounds of its decision to be published.

8. Dr Boon's 3-month suspension took effect from 26 April 2014 and will run to 25 July 2014 (both dates inclusive).

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