



# SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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## PRESS RELEASE

### SMC APPOINTS SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

1. The Singapore Medical Council (“SMC”) has appointed a Sentencing Guidelines Committee (the “Committee”) to develop a framework to guide Disciplinary Tribunals (“DTs”) on the appropriate sanctions to be meted out to medical practitioners who are charged and found guilty before the DTs, taking into account sentencing principles. The sentencing guidelines will help the DTs in ensuring consistency and fairness in the sentences meted out, and improve transparency and rigour in the disciplinary process.
2. The SMC, in consultation with the Ministry of Health (“MOH”) and Ministry of Law (“MinLaw”) has appointed 16 members to the Committee on 1 January 2019. The Committee is chaired by Judge of Appeal Judith Prakash, and comprises members from the medical and legal fraternities, as well as representatives from the MOH and MinLaw. The members possess the necessary breadth and depth of subject matter knowledge and expertise, as well as legal expertise, to facilitate a thorough and considered review of the disciplinary process to propose a set of sentencing guidelines. The full composition of the Committee can be found in [Annex A](#). The Committee’s terms of reference can be found in [Annex B](#).
3. In developing the sentencing guidelines, the Committee will consider local jurisprudence on professional conduct and discipline, as well as the practices and approaches in other jurisdictions in this area.
4. The Committee aims to develop the set of sentencing guidelines by the end of 2019.

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## ANNEX A

### SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

S/n	Name	Status	Designation and/or Institution
1	Judge of Appeal Judith Prakash	Chairman	Judge of Appeal Supreme Court of Singapore
2	Justice Belinda Ang Saw Ean	Member	Justice Supreme Court of Singapore
3	A/Prof Chen Fun Gee	Member	Council Member Singapore Medical Council
4	JC Dedar Singh Gill	Member	Judicial Commissioner Supreme Court of Singapore
5	Mr Han Kok Juan	Member	Deputy Secretary Ministry of Law
6	A/Prof Roy Joseph	Member	Panel of DT Chairmen Singapore Medical Council
7	Ms Kuah Boon Theng SC	Member	Managing Director Legal Clinic LLC
8	Dr Leong Choon Kit	Member	Council Member Singapore Medical Council
9	Dr Loke Chi Wei Peter	Member	Representative College of Family Physicians Singapore
10	A/Prof Ng Suah Bwee Agnes	Member	Council Member Singapore Medical Council
11	Ms Ngiam Siew Ying	Member	Deputy Secretary (Policy) Ministry of Health
12	Prof Abu Rauff	Member	Representative Academy of Medicine Singapore
13	Dr Joseph Sheares	Member	Panel of DT Chairmen Singapore Medical Council
14	Dr Wong Chiang Yin	Member	Representative Singapore Medical Association

S/n	Name	Status	Designation and/or Institution
<b><u>Ex-Officio</u></b>			
15	Prof Tan Ser Kiat	Member	President Singapore Medical Council
16	A/Prof Benjamin Ong	Member	Registrar Singapore Medical Council

## **ANNEX B**

### **SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- (a) To provide guidance to the SMC Disciplinary Tribunals (DTs) on the appropriate sanctions to be meted out taking into account sentencing principles;
- (b) To identify and categorise a list of offences based on past DT cases as well as existing complaints;
- (c) To conduct a comparative study of the type and severity of sanctions imposed by the disciplinary arm of overseas Medical Councils (such as the UK General Medical Council) so as to ensure that the sanctions to be imposed by the SMC DTs are broadly in line with international practices; and
- (d) To identify and set out the mitigating and aggravating factors (e.g. stage of doctor's medical career, antecedents, testimonials) which a DT can take into account when deciding on the appropriate sanction.