



SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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PRESS STATEMENT

SMC TO APPLY TO COURT TO REVIEW DT'S DECISION ON DR SOO SHUENN CHIANG

1. The Singapore Medical Council (SMC) has reviewed the appropriateness of the Disciplinary Tribunal (DT) sentence against Dr Soo Shuenn Chiang, and has decided to appeal for a reduction of the fine imposed against Dr Soo. The SMC has applied to the High Court for an extension of time to file the appeal.
2. After the publication of the Grounds of Decision for Dr Lim Lian Arn's DT inquiry on 21 January 2019, the Ministry of Health (MOH) had requested that SMC review the appropriateness of the sentence against Dr Lim, as the decision carried with it wider professional practice implications and also had an impact on future cases. Following the SMC's review and careful consideration of the implications on the practice of medicine and provision of healthcare services in Singapore, the SMC decided to appeal for a reduction of the fine imposed against Dr Lim, and applied to the High Court for an extension of time to do so. The SMC's application was granted, and the appeal against Dr Lim's sentence is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Court of Three Judges in the second quarter of 2019.
3. In the light of the review of Dr Lim's case, the SMC has similarly reviewed the appropriateness of the sentence against Dr Soo.
4. Acknowledging the medical profession's feedback and concerns, SMC's President Professor Tan Ser Kiat said, "The SMC understands the potential wider implications of the DTs' decisions on the practice of medicine in Singapore, and the challenges and pressures faced daily by doctors in their work environment. The SMC remains committed to reviewing and refining its complaints and disciplinary process periodically to maintain the public and the profession's confidence. In this regard, the SMC had, in consultation with MOH and the Ministry of Law, appointed a Sentencing Guidelines Committee on 1 January 2019, and looks forward to its recommendations, which will ensure consistency and fairness in sentencing."
5. MOH had also, on 2 March 2019, announced that it will form a Workgroup to undertake a comprehensive review and to make appropriate recommendations on: (a) the taking of informed consent by doctors; and (b) the SMC's disciplinary process. The SMC will provide its fullest support to the Workgroup's independent review.

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Media Enquiries

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