

*Annual  
Report  
2004*



**Singapore  
Pharmacy  
Board**

**Annual Report 2004**



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2004 - What an exciting and busy year it had been! The Pharmacy Board continued with the work that it had begun in 2003 and discussed several new issues that would facilitate the advancement of the pharmacy profession in Singapore. The very fruitful deliberations during the 5 Board meetings held in the year would certainly help steer the profession to greater heights. The year also saw the launch of several new initiatives.

The Board appointed a pro tem committee to recommend a compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework for pharmacists in Singapore. The 11-member committee was chaired by Mrs Tan Shook Fong. The committee submitted its report in July 2004. The report was circulated to several major stakeholders for their comments. The CPD framework was generally supported by them.

Three preceptor training workshops were conducted during the year for preceptors of pre-registration trainees. The workshops equipped the preceptors with the knowledge and skills in mentoring, coaching and communication to function effectively as preceptors. To improve the standard of supervised training of pre-registration pharmacists, the Board decided that all appointed preceptors must have attended the preceptor skills training workshop and also have at least 3 years of professional experience.

The revision of the Pharmacists Registration Act (PRA) and its Regulations was ongoing. The following are some of the proposed revisions:

- Introduction of compulsory Continuing Professional Education for pharmacists
- Inclusion of a Specialist Register
- Inclusion of a Temporary Register
- Conversion of Pharmacy Board to a statutory board

The Board appointed a Specialist Accreditation Committee (SAC) to look into pharmacy specialties and the requirements for recognition of pharmacist specialists. The SAC is headed by Dr Camilla Wong.

A total of 10 institutions submitted their applications to be registered as pre-registration training centres during the year. The Board approved all 10 applications for a period of 2 years, i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their invaluable contributions during the year.

The Board looks forward to 2005 with great expectations!

Ms Ang Hui Gek  
President/Registrar  
Singapore Pharmacy Board

## INTRODUCTION

The Singapore Pharmacy Board is the professional board established under the Pharmacists Registration Act 1979 to maintain a Register of Pharmacists and to investigate into any complaints against pharmacists for professional misconduct. Pharmacists found guilty of professional misconduct may be reprimanded, suspended or removed from the Register.

The Board also renews annual practising certificates and issues certificates of good character. The Board specifies pre-registration requisites, approves pre-registration training centres and directs continuing education.

Under the current Pharmacists Registration Act 1979, the Singapore Pharmacy Board comprises six members. Two ex-officio members stipulated in the Act are the Chief Pharmacist, Ministry of Health and the Head of Department of Pharmacy, National University of Singapore. By statute, the Chief Pharmacist is also the President and Registrar of the Board. The other four members are pharmacists chosen from the private and public sectors. They are appointed for a term of three years by the Minister for Health.

# QUALITY STATEMENT

The Singapore Pharmacy Board strives to achieve quality output of pharmacists through an efficient registration process and overseeing pharmacists' continual development to reach professional standards benchmarked amongst the best in the world.

## VISION

To oversee registered pharmacists' continual development to reach professional standards benchmarked amongst the best in the world.

## MISSION

To achieve quality output of pharmacists through an efficient registration process.

## CORE VALUES

The Board adopts the core values of the Ministry of Health, namely:

- Dedication** - We desire to serve.  
We believe in giving our best.  
We are passionate in what we do.
  
- Professionalism** - We seek to develop a high level of expertise.  
We are objective in decision-making.  
We do that which is best for Singapore and Singaporeans.
  
- Integrity, Care & Compassion, Teamwork** - We take responsibility for our work.  
We go the extra mile to show we care.  
We work together for the best outcomes.

## **MEMBERS OF SINGAPORE PHARMACY BOARD 2004**

The members of Singapore Pharmacy Board 2004 listed below were first appointed into office on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002. Their three-year term will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005.

### **President/Registrar (ex-officio)**

Ms Ang Hui Gek *BSc (Pharm), Singapore*  
Chief Pharmacist  
Ministry of Health

### **Members**

Assoc. Prof. Paul Heng Wan Sia (*ex-officio*)  
*BSc (Pharm) (Hons), PhD (Pharmaceutics), Singapore*  
Head, Department of Pharmacy  
National University of Singapore

Mrs Tan Shook Fong *BPharm (Hons), Singapore*  
c/o Singapore Pharmacy Board

Dr Ellick Wong *BSc (Pharm), Taiwan, MSc, PhD (Pharmaceutics), UK*  
c/o Department of Pharmacy  
National University of Singapore

Mr Sia Chong Hock *BSc (Pharm), Singapore*  
Deputy Director  
Manufacturing and Quality Audit  
Centre for Drug Administration  
Health Sciences Authority

Ms Linda Seah *BSc (Pharm) (Hons), Singapore*  
Managing Director  
Novartis Singapore Pte Ltd

# REPORT ON BOARD ACTIVITIES

A summary of the Board's activities during the year 2004 is presented under the following headings:

- Board Meetings
- Matters of Professional Misconduct
- Forensic Examinations for Foreign Graduates
- Revenue and Expenditure

## Board Meetings

A total of five Board meetings were held in the year 2004. The meetings were held in the months of January, March, June, August and October 2004. Some of the issues discussed during these meetings were:

- Revision of Pharmacists Registration Act
- Preceptor Training Workshops
- Compulsory Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists
- Pharmacist Specialisation
- ISO 9001:2000 Certification

## Revision of Pharmacists Registration Act

The Act and its Regulations are being amended to keep up with new developments in the field of pharmacy and medicine. The following are some of the proposed amendments:

- Compulsory Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for Pharmacists  
A two-year practising certificate would be issued in the near future instead of the current annual practising certificate. The practising certificate will be issued subject to the pharmacist meeting the compulsory CPE requirements set by the Board.
- Recognition of Specialist Pharmacists  
Pharmacists with specialist qualifications will be recognised

as specialist pharmacists. The requirements for recognition as a specialist pharmacist would be drawn up by the Specialist Accreditation Committee.

- Temporary Register

The Temporary Register will allow for the temporary registration of foreign or foreign-trained pharmacists who have the relevant pharmaceutical knowledge, experience and skills, but are otherwise not entitled to be fully registered, to contribute to the local economy under a supervisory framework.

- Election of Board Members

The membership of the Board would be increased to eleven. Six of the members will be appointed by the Minister for Health and five will be elected by registered pharmacists.

### Preceptor Training Workshops

The Board conducted three, 1-day preceptor training workshops during the year in the months of June, July and August. The training was organised to equip and hone the skills of pre-registration pharmacist' preceptors in leading, mentoring and coaching. A total of 142 pharmacists participated in the workshop. About 60% of the participants were hospital pharmacists and the rest were retail pharmacists. The overall rating for the workshops was good.

### Compulsory Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists

A pro tem committee was appointed to propose a compulsory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework for pharmacists. The committee chaired by Mrs Tan Shook Fong presented its proposals under 7 categories:

- Policy and operational framework of establishing a system of mandatory CPD
- Functions and responsibilities of the Accreditation Committee
- Operational structure of the Accreditation Committee
- CPD provider accreditation
- Points award system

- CPD requirements for the issue and renewal of practising certificates
- Compulsory CPD implementation timeline

The committee's report was circulated to several major stakeholders for their views. The report was generally supported by the following institutions:

- Pharmacy Department, National University of Singapore
- Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore
- Singapore Association of Pharmaceutical Industries
- Pharmacy Department, National University Hospital
- Pharmacy Department, Singapore General Hospital
- Pharmacy Department, Tan Tock Seng Hospital
- NHG Pharmacy
- SingHealth Polyclinics
- Guardian Pharmacy
- Unity Pharmacy

### Pharmacist Specialisation

The Board appointed a 7-member Specialist Accreditation Committee (SAC). The SAC which is chaired by Dr Camilla Wong has been tasked to look into the pharmacy specialties that have to be developed, the requirements and standards for specialty practice and the system for recognising pharmacist specialists.

### ISO 9001:2000 Certification

The Board passed its 1<sup>st</sup> annual ISO 9001:2000 assessment in March 2004.

### **Matters of Professional Misconduct**

The Board did not receive any complaints against pharmacists during the year.

## **Forensic Examinations for Foreign Graduates**

The examiners appointed by the Board were A/Prof. Lim Lee Yong from the Department of Pharmacy, NUS, and Mr Kelvin Tan, Deputy Head, Prosecution Unit/Investigation and Surveillance Unit, Centre for Drug Administration, Health Sciences Authority.

Foreign pharmacy graduates from approved universities are eligible for registration with the Board subject to the following criteria:

- (a) they must have completed their pre-registration training in the country they graduated from;
- (b) they must satisfactorily complete a specified period of pre-registration training in an institution in Singapore approved by the Board; and
- (c) pass the forensic examination set by the appointed Board of Examiners.

In 2004, two forensic examinations were held for a total of 9 candidates. The examinations were conducted on 15th April 2004 (4 candidates) and 22nd November 2004 (5 candidates). Three candidates failed to attain the passing mark of 60%. Two of the candidates will re-sit for the examination in 2005.

Of the nine candidates, two held degrees from Malaysia (Universiti Sains Malaysia), four from Australia, two from the United Kingdom and one from New Zealand.

## **Revenue and Expenditure**

Singapore Pharmacy Board received S\$269,773.00 in revenue and expended S\$232,892.02. The Board's revenue was channelled into the government's consolidated fund. As the Board is still under the Ministry of Health, all of the Board's payments were made by the Ministry.

# THE PHARMACISTS REGISTER FOR THE YEAR 2004

## Total Number of Registered Pharmacists

At year-end, there were 1,288 pharmacists on the register, a net increase of 52 over that of the previous year. This included the registration of 5 foreign-trained graduates.

The number of pharmacists registered in Singapore over the past 5 years is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Number of Registered Pharmacists in Singapore (2000-2004)**

Year	Total Number of Pharmacists on the Register	Net Increase(+) / Decrease(-) Over the Previous Year
2000	1098	+55
2001	1141	+43
2002	1191	+50
2003	1236	+45
2004	1288	+52

## Number of Foreign Trained Registered Pharmacists

A total of 192 foreign-trained pharmacists had registered with the Board over the past 14 years. The number registered each year since 1991 is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Total Number of Foreign Trained Pharmacists (1991-2004)**

Year	Number of Pharmacists
1991	7
1992	7
1993	12
1994	7
1995	9
1996	10
1997	28
1998	22
1999	15
2000	27
2001	17
2002	11
2003	15
2004	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>

## Profile of Registered Pharmacists

The general profile of registered pharmacists in 2004 is shown in Table 3. The population of registered pharmacists in Singapore comprised approximately 30% male and 70% female pharmacists. Male pharmacists increased by 12 in the year 2004, while female pharmacists increased by 40.

Majority of the pharmacists are Chinese (92.9%), followed by Indians (4.4%), Malays and Others. Of the 1,288 pharmacists registered, three-quarters were Singaporeans (75.8%).

**Table 3**  
**General Profile of Registered Pharmacists**

General Profile		Number	Percentage (%)
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>1288</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>	Male	375	29.1
	Female	913	70.9
<b>Ethnic Group</b>	Chinese	1197	92.9
	Malay	22	1.7
	Indian	56	4.4
	Others	13	1.0
<b>Nationality</b>	Singaporean	976	75.8
	Malaysian	269	20.9
	Others	43	3.3
<b>Age Group</b>	20-29	351	27.2
	30-39	461	35.8
	40-49	273	21.2
	50-59	121	9.4
	60 and above	82	6.4

## Employment Status

The statistics on employment status of registered pharmacists at end of Dec 2004 are shown in Table 4.

A total of 1015 or 78.8% of registered pharmacists were engaged in full-time employment and 98 or 7.6% were in part-time employment. There is an increase in the proportion of pharmacists engaged in full-time and part-time employment and a decrease in the proportion of pharmacists engaged in non-pharmaceutical fields when compared to the previous years.

Table 5 shows the distribution of the number of registered pharmacists who were not working.

**Table 4**  
**Working Status of Registered Pharmacists**

Working Status	Number	Percentage (%)
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>1288</b>	<b>100</b>
Full-time employment	1015	78.8
Part-time employment	98	7.6
Employed in non-pharmaceutical fields	18	1.4
Not Working	157	12.2

**Table 5**  
**Age Distribution of Registered Pharmacists Not Working**

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
20 - 29	25	7	32
30 - 39	38	7	45
40 - 49	26	9	35
50 - 59	12	6	18
60 and above	10	17	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>157</b>

## Fields of Employment

Table 6 shows the fields of employment of pharmacists in the private and public sectors.

### Private Sector

In the private sector, the number of registered pharmacists employed in "wholesale & retail" increased by 3.4% when compared to 2003.

### Public Sector

Majority of the public sector pharmacists were employed in hospitals (58.8%). 13.0% of pharmacists were employed in the area of pharmaceutical regulation and 12.5% were employed in polyclinics of both health clusters, i.e. SingHealth Pte Ltd and National Healthcare Group. The remaining 15.7% were employed in the areas of academia, administration and other fields.

**Table 6**  
**Fields of Employment of Registered Pharmacists in the year 2004**

Fields of Employment	Number	Percentage (%)
<b>Private Sector</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>100</b>
Wholesale and Retail	220	29.1
Marketing	130	17.2
Wholesale	100	13.3
Clinical Trials	50	6.6
Manufacturing	36	4.8
Hospital	35	4.6
Non-pharmaceutical	18	2.4
Locum	16	2.1
Medical Clinic	10	1.3
Health Information Services	8	1.1
Volunteer Welfare Organisation	8	1.1
Consultancy	3	0.4
Research	1	0.1
Others (including those working overseas)	120	15.9
<b>Public Sector</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100</b>
Hospitals	221	58.8
Pharmaceutical Regulation	49	13.0
NHG & SingHealth Polyclinics	47	12.5
Academia	31	8.2
Administration	24	6.4
Others	4	1.1

## Basic Degrees

The pharmacists registered in Singapore obtained their basic pharmacy degrees from a relatively good spread of different countries. Slightly more than four-fifths or 82.4% of our registered pharmacists obtained their basic pharmacy qualifications in Singapore. This is followed by Australia (6.2%), United Kingdom (4.6%), Malaysia (2.8%) and the United States (1.4%).

**Table 7**  
**Basic Degrees of Registered Pharmacists in year 2004**

Country	Number	Percentage (%)
Singapore	1061	82.4
Australia	80	6.2
United Kingdom	60	4.6
Malaysia	36	2.8
United States	18	1.4
Canada	13	1.0
New Zealand	10	0.8
Taiwan	5	0.4
India	3	0.2
Spain	1	0.1
Pakistan	1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1288</b>	<b>100</b>

## Post-Basic Degrees

Table 8 shows the number of pharmacists in the register who had obtained higher qualifications in pharmacy. A total of 97 post-basic pharmacy degrees were recorded, with Clinical Pharmacy being the most common specialty (35.1%). This was followed by Pharmaceutics (14.4%), Pharmacology (14.4%), Pharmaceutical Chemistry (13.4%) and Pharmaceutical Technology (9.3%).

**Table 8**  
**Number of Pharmacists by Specialty of Post-Basic Degree**

Specialty	Number	Percentage (%)
Clinical Pharmacy	34	35.1
Pharmaceutics	14	14.4
Pharmacology	14	14.4
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	13	13.4
Pharmaceutical Technology	9	9.3
Hospital Pharmacy	4	4.1
Pharmacy Practice	4	4.1
Pharmacognosy	2	2.1
Biopharmacy	2	2.1
Pharmaceutical Microbiology	1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>

## Pharmacists Residing Overseas

At end 2004, 86 pharmacists on the register were residing overseas. Table 9 shows the countries of residence of these pharmacists. A majority were in Australia (27.9%), followed by Malaysia (13.9%) and Hong Kong (10.5%).

Table 10 shows the reasons for residing overseas. The most common reason cited was "Work" (41.8%) followed by "Accompanying spouse/family" (34.9%).

**Table 9**  
**Countries of Residence of Registered Pharmacists Residing Overseas**

Country	Number	Percentage (%)
Australia	24	27.9
Malaysia	12	13.9
Hong Kong SAR	9	10.5
United States	8	9.3
United Kingdom	7	8.1
China	6	7.0
Canada	4	4.7
New Zealand	3	3.5
Brunei	2	2.3
Japan	2	2.3
Taiwan	2	2.3
Thailand	2	2.3
Indonesia	1	1.2
Italy	1	1.2
Niger	1	1.2
Others	2	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 10**  
**Reasons for Residing Overseas**

Reasons	Number	Percentage (%)
Work	36	41.8
Accompany spouse/family	30	34.9
Return to home country	9	10.5
Further studies	8	9.3
Residing Overseas	2	2.3
Migration	1	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

### Non-Renewal of Annual Certificate

Forty-seven pharmacists had chosen not to renew their annual practising certificate by December 2004. The primary reason for non-renewal was residency overseas, followed by retirement. The reasons cited are listed in Table 11 as shown.

**Table 11**  
**Reasons for Non-Renewal of Annual Practising Certificate**

Reasons for Non-Renewal	Number	Percentage (%)
Retired	13	27.7
Accompany spouse/family overseas	7	14.9
Not working	6	12.8
Working in non-pharmaceutical field	5	10.6
Overseas employment	4	8.5
Return to own country	4	8.5
Studying	4	8.5
Residing overseas	3	6.4
Look after children	1	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>

## CONCLUSION

The Pharmacy Board will steadfastly continue to put in place new initiatives and programmes to raise pharmacy practice standards and to improve the pharmacy profession's image in the eyes of the public and other professions.

The Board will initiate the development of an electronic Continuing Professional Development System (CPDS) for pharmacists in 2005. Pharmacists will be able to submit their continuing education activities to the Board electronically via the CPDS once the system is up and running.

The Board will be conducting several preceptor training workshops in the year 2005 for preceptors who could not attend the workshops in 2004 and for newly identified preceptors.

The Board rallies the support from all pharmacists to work together to raise professional standards and quality services to bring the pharmacy profession to the next level.

**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2004 - 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2004)**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$</b>
Annual Certificate Fees	243,200.00
New Registration Fees	13,200.00
Pre-Registration Fees	7,840.00
Forensic Examination	2,700.00
Restoration Fees	1,750.00
Late Payment	975.00
Sale of Pharmacy Book	108.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>269,773.00</b>

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>\$</b>
IT Maintenance	167,796.15
Expenditure on Manpower	61,331.48
Printing of Certificates/Annual Report 2003	1,932.00
Purchase of Pharmaceutical Journal	721.17
Bank Charges for SPB D2PAY & eNet Credit - Sep to Dec 2004	506.66
Photocopier Printing Charges	244.01
Miscellaneous	160.03
Refreshments	155.52
Stationery	45.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>232,892.02</b>

**Note:**

**As the Singapore Pharmacy Board is still under the Ministry of Health, the following expenditures were not accounted for:**

Rental

PUB Charges

Telephone Charges

Security Guards

Daily General Cleaning

All revenue collected was deposited into the central fund in MOF.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

### **1 A Pharmacist shall regard the health of the patient as his priority in his work.**

- (a) A pharmacist shall not supply to any member of the public any substance, medicinal product or medical appliance which the pharmacist knows, or has reason to believe, is intended to be used in a manner which would be detrimental to health.
- (b) A pharmacist shall seek consultation with a professional colleague, and with other health professionals, when deemed to be in the best interests of the patient.
- (c) A Pharmacist shall not encourage a member of the public to purchase or obtain more of a medicinal product than he may require.

### **2 A Pharmacist shall strive to achieve and maintain the highest standard of professional services.**

- (a) A high standard of professional conduct in pharmacy, and an efficient pharmaceutical service is necessary in the public interest. Every pharmacist shall play his part in providing such a service, and shall avoid any act or omission which will prejudice the providing of such a service, or impair confidence in the pharmaceutical professional as a whole.
- (b) A pharmacist must supply professional advice and counselling on medication at every opportunity, and shall only refrain from doing so when deemed to be in the best interests of the patient.
- (c) Where premises are registered under the Medicines Act and operate as a pharmacy, a reasonably comprehensive pharmaceutical service shall be provided.

- (d) The systems and methods in a pharmacy shall be such that there is no risk of error or contamination in the preparation, dispensing and supply of medicinal products.
- (e) Employment as the sole pharmacist shall not be offered to, nor accepted by, a pharmacist who is not able to perform the full duties of a pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy.

**3 A Pharmacist shall respect the trust and confidentiality of his professional relationship with the patient.**

The nature of the ailment and treatment of a patient shall not be divulged to a third party except by order of a court of law.

**4 A Pharmacist shall always reinforce the confidence and trust placed in his colleagues by patients.**

- (a) The therapeutic efficacy of prescriptions shall not be discussed with patients or others in such a manner as to impair confidence in the prescriber.
- (b) A pharmacist who has accepted a prescription for dispensing, shall dispense the prescription exactly in accordance with the prescriber's wishes. A pharmacist must not (except with the approval of the prescriber, or in an emergency) substitute any product for a specifically named product, even if the therapeutic effect and quality of both products are identical.
- (c) Where there are errors in dosage or potential drug interactions, the pharmacist must inform the prescriber immediately in a discreet manner, so as not to alarm the patient.

**5 A Pharmacist shall always assist his colleagues and other health professionals, when called upon for advice or help.**

A pharmacist shall at all times be ready to help other pharmacists in providing an efficient pharmaceutical service.

**6 A Pharmacist shall maintain effective professional relationships with his colleagues and other health professionals, and pay due regard to their opinions and achievements.**

While the closest professional co-operation between pharmacist and doctor is desirable, a pharmacist shall not recommend a medical practitioner or medical practice unless on request by a member of the public seeking such advice.

**7 A Pharmacist shall refrain from publicly criticising his colleagues and members of other health professions.**

Improper conduct by pharmacists will not be condoned by the Singapore Pharmacy Board. Complaints of such misconduct must be directed in confidence to the President of the Singapore Pharmacy Board at Harrower Hall, No. 14, College Road, Singapore 169853.

**8 A Pharmacist shall refrain from attracting clientele to himself and away from his colleagues.**

- (a) Canvassing to promote the pharmacy is unethical.
- (b) A discreet notice, relating to Pregnancy Testing Services, Urinoanalysis or Patient Counselling Services, may be exhibited at the premises.
- (c) A dispensing pharmacist shall wear a nametag bearing his name and designation as 'pharmacist' and white jacket or overalls to denote his profession.

- (d) The display of the qualification(s) of a pharmacist on stationery, as well as on any part of his premises, shall be discreet and shall be no more than the qualification(s) officially entered in the Register of Pharmacists by the Singapore Pharmacy Board.
- (e) No payment shall be made to a medical practitioner by way of commission or any other material consideration in connection with the dispensing of a prescription.
- (f) No inducement such as a prize or gift shall be offered to encourage the public to bring prescriptions to the pharmacy.
- (g) No advertisements or representations shall be made in any manner calculated to suggest that the professional skill of a pharmacist or his facilities for pharmaceutical services, are of a higher order than those of other pharmacists; or in a manner reflecting adversely on the skill or ability or professional services rendered by other pharmacists.
- (h) A pharmacist shall not allow others to use his name, qualifications, address or photograph in connection with an advertisement or representation to the public of any medicinal product.

**9 A Pharmacist shall observe the laws relevant to the practice of his profession at all times.**

- (a) Secret or cipher prescriptions shall not be dispensed, and a pharmacist shall not, in any way, be a party to the use of such prescriptions.
- (b) Information regarding professional services and cost shall be given to the patient truthfully, accurately and fully.

**10 A Pharmacist shall concern himself with the facilities and methods of educating and training new pharmacists.**

- (a) A pharmacist, who is a registered master under an agreement of pupillage, must maintain the facilities and equipment of his practice to a required standard as laid down by the Singapore Pharmacy Board.
- (b) A pharmacist shall not withhold any known professional information with respect to the art and science of pharmacy from either his colleagues or any pre-registration pharmacist under his supervision.

**11 A Pharmacist shall keep abreast of the progress of pharmaceutical knowledge in order to maintain the highest standard of professional competence.**

**12 A Pharmacist shall refrain from accepting conditions of service which do not ensure his professional independence.**

## **GUIDE ON ADVERTISING FOR PHARMACISTS & PHARMACIES**

### **A INTRODUCTION**

- 1 As pharmacy is a profession, pharmacists are prohibited from publishing or distributing any advertisements concerning their practice as pharmacists. However, advertisements may be permitted under certain circumstances.
- 2 This guide is therefore drawn up for pharmacists in the areas of advertising of pharmacists and pharmacies. It provides advice on good professional practice, and should help pharmacists to interpret and avoid breaching the Code of Ethics. A breach of the Code of Ethics could form the basis of a complaint of misconduct.
- 3 Guidelines cannot cover every situation. When in doubt, the advice of the Singapore Pharmacy Board should be sought.

### **B CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE ADVERTISING IS PERMITTED**

- 1 A pharmacist may publish or distribute an advertisement concerning his practice as a pharmacist, provided that the advertisement is restricted to name, academic qualifications, address and telephone number in business/ name card.
- 2 A pharmacy may publish or distribute an advertisement concerning its practice as a pharmacy, provided that the advertisement is restricted to its address, days and hours of service and telephone number in the media, and as part of the letterhead in their business stationery.

- 3 When advertising in telephone and other local directories, entries should be limited to the standard entry and may include hours of service.
- 4 A pharmacist may use the terms 'dispensing pharmacist', 'prescriptions', 'pharmacist', 'night pharmacy', 'night dispensing', or such other terms as may be approved by the Board, as a description on a fascia or other appropriate position on the premises of a pharmacy or pharmacy department.
- 5 A pharmacist may advertise goods and services, other than those used in his practice as a pharmacist, where such advertising does not, either directly or indirectly, encourage indiscriminate or unnecessary use of drugs and medicines from another pharmacist, for example, surgical goods such as gloves, cosmetics or other non-medicinal products. A discreet notice relating to pregnancy testing service, urinoanalysis, patient counselling services, blood glucose testing, patient medication records services, drug information centre or blood pressure testing, may be exhibited at the premises.
- 6 A dispensing pharmacist may wear a nametag bearing his name and designation as 'pharmacist'.
- 7 The display of qualification(s) of a pharmacist on stationery, as well as on any part of his premises, should be discreet and should be no more than the qualification(s) or higher qualification(s) officially entered in the Register of Pharmacists.

## **C CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE ADVERTISING IS NOT PERMITTED**

- 1 Canvassing to promote dispensing or any other professional service, or to promote the sale by retail of medicinal products, other than veterinary drugs, should not be undertaken.

- 2 No advertisement or representation should be made in any manner, calculated to suggest that the professional skill of a pharmacist, or his facilities for pharmaceutical services, are of a higher order than those of other pharmacists; or in a manner reflecting adversely on the skill or ability or professional services rendered by other pharmacists.
- 3 No pharmacist should give any statement or testimonial upon any medicinal product or appliance, to any proprietor, manufacturer, distributor or vendor, for publication with the name and image of such pharmacist attached, other than way of an acknowledgement in an article published in a scientific journal. Pharmacists may, however, contribute articles of general interest to lay magazines or other non-scientific publications. They should take care not to endorse or promote any particular medicine or product. Only their names and qualifications may be stated in the article.
- 4 No pharmacist should exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, any sign plate, placard, painting, sculpture, replica design or representation visible to members of the public generally, which in the opinion of the Board is unethical, or which is calculated to be an advertisement of his practice as a pharmacist. Examples include advertising signs which are not physically attached to the pharmacy premises to which they refer such as signs in bus shelters, MRT stations and other buildings.

#### **D LIABILITY OF PHARMACIST FOR CERTAIN ADVERTISEMENTS**

- 1 Every advertisement published by or in the name of a person, firm or incorporated company, which in any manner implies or suggests that such advertisement is justified by or based on the practice of a pharmacist, would be deemed to be an advertisement by such pharmacist in the same manner as if it had been inserted by him personally.

## **E OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

- 1 Every identifying sign in a pharmacy department of a hospital should be restricted to 'pharmacy', 'pharmacy department' or 'department of pharmacy' and could include the name of the hospital.
- 2 A pharmacist should exercise great care and do everything reasonably possible when speaking to the press or television, to ensure that he does not directly or indirectly contravene the Code of Ethics.

## REQUISITES FOR PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING

- 1 Premises suitable for pre-registration training include
  - ◆ Hospital/Institutional Pharmacies
  - ◆ Retail Pharmacies
  - ◆ Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plants
  - ◆ Centre for Drug Administration, Health Sciences Authority
  
- 2 The institutions providing pre-registration training shall comply with the following requirements :
  - ◆ The premises for training are approved by the Singapore Pharmacy Board.
  - ◆ A comprehensive programme of training by the institution has been approved by the Singapore Pharmacy Board.
  - ◆ Registered pharmacists with at least three years of service are available as preceptors who will be directly responsible for the supervision and training of pre-registration pharmacists.
  - ◆ Each preceptor shall not accept more than two pre-registration students.
  
- 3 For local pharmacy graduates pursuing a postgraduate degree under the supervision of a registered pharmacist in the National University of Singapore, up to 9 months of their course time is considered as pre-registration training. The balance of 3 months will have to be undertaken in an approved training institution. The postgraduate pharmacist can only be registered on successful passing of the examinations for the higher degree and completion of three months of pre-registration training in a clinical setting.

## APPROVED INSTITUTIONS FOR PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINING

Department of Pharmacy  
Alexandra Hospital  
378 Alexandra Road  
Singapore 159964  
Tel : 63793320  
Fax : 63793902

Department of Pharmacy  
Singapore General Hospital  
Outram Road  
Singapore 169608  
Tel : 63214815  
Fax : 62274330

Department of Pharmacy  
Changi General Hospital  
2 Simei Street 3  
Singapore 529899  
Tel : 68501888  
Fax : 67862485

Department of Pharmacy  
Tan Tock Seng Hospital  
Moulmein Road  
Singapore 308433  
Tel : 63572010  
Fax : 62566460

Department of Pharmacy  
Institute of Mental Health /  
Woodbridge Hospital  
10 Buangkok View  
Singapore 539747  
Tel : 63852073  
Fax : 63851027

National Healthcare Group Pharmacy  
11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng Level 2  
Singapore 308433  
Tel : 63577577  
Fax : 62542191  
Polyclinics: Bukit Batok,  
Jurong, Toa Payoh, Woodlands

Department of Pharmacy  
K K Women's & Children's Hospital  
100 Bukit Timah Road  
Singapore 229899  
Tel : 63942460  
Fax : 63942465

Guardian SEA Pte Ltd  
1 Sophia Road  
#04-48 Peace Centre  
Singapore 228149  
Tel : 63372766  
Fax : 63384608

Department of Pharmacy  
National University Hospital  
5 Lower Kent Ridge Road  
Singapore 119074  
Tel : 67725008  
Fax : 68737121

Unity NTUC Healthcare  
55 Ubi Avenue 1  
#08-01/08  
Singapore 408935  
Tel : 68461128  
Fax : 68469313

**SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Registration Fee	\$200
Pre-registration Training Fee	\$ 80
Annual Certificate Fee	\$200
Late Payment Fee	\$ 75
Restoration Fee	\$250
Forensic Examination Fee	\$300
Certified True Copy of Certificate Fee	\$ 50

