

**SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL DISCIPLINARY INQUIRY AGAINST
DR AAQ HELD ON 1 JULY 2009**

Disciplinary Committee:

Dr Tan Kok Soo (Chairman)
Dr Wong Sin Yew
Dr Lim Beng Hai
Mr Wu Tuck Seng (Lay Member)

Legal Assessor:

Ms Jinny Tan
(M/s Wee Tay & Lim)

Prosecution Counsel:

Mr Philip Fong
Ms Kylie Peh
(M/s Harry Elias Partnership)

DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

(Note: Certain information may be redacted or anonymised to protect the identity of the parties.)

1. These proceedings arose out of a police report received by the Bedok Police Station made against you on 27 September 2005 and which was later referred to the Singapore Medical Council (the "SMC") on 21 November 2005.
2. You, Dr AAQ have been charged with 23 charges for failing to exercise due care towards your patients named specifically in Charges 1 to 23 set out in the Agreed Bundle (Volume 1) in that you had inappropriately prescribed medication to the patients without consultation and/or medical examination on occasions as set out in Schedules 1 to 23, and the medications prescribed include Dormicum, Valium, Phensedyl, Phenobarbitone, Amoxicillin, Artane, Carbimazole and Atenolol.
3. You have pleaded guilty to the said 23 Charges and admitted to the Agreed Statement of Facts submitted by the solicitor for the Council. The Committee

is of the view that you had engaged in inappropriate prescribing practice by regularly prescribing benzodiazepines to your patients without exercising standard of diligence and care.

4. You did not have a strategy or plan to reduce the dosage. The pattern of prescribing was clinically inappropriate in prescribing benzodiazepines excessively over a period of months to years. You should know or ought to have known that this pattern of prescribing was clearly inappropriate making the patient physically and/or psychologically dependent on the drug.
5. Briefly, in mitigation, you had submitted, inter alia, as follows:-
 - a) since the issue of the Guidelines for Prescribing Benzodiazepines from the Ministry of Health, you had immediately stopped the prescription of hypnotics and was more careful and restrained in the prescription of cough mixtures; and
 - b) since 2003, you had stopped practising as a general practitioner.

SENTENCE:

6. The Committee has carefully considered the abovementioned factors and the submission in mitigation by you, Dr AAQ.
7. Having regard to all the circumstances, the Committee makes the following orders pursuant to section 45(2) of the Medical Registration Act:-
 - a) that you be suspended from practice for a period of **6** months;
 - b) that you be fined in the sum of \$3,000;
 - c) that you be censured;
 - d) that you give a written undertaking to the Medical Council to abstain in future from the conduct complained of or any similar conduct; and

e) that you pay the costs and expenses of and incidental to these proceedings, including the costs of the solicitor to the Singapore Medical Council and the Legal Assessor.

8. The hearing is hereby concluded.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2009.