

HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

SMA OBTAINS CLARIFICATION ON MANAGED CARE PRACTICES

SMA was alerted to concerns about business practices that may have an impact on the practice of medicine in Singapore. On 23 February 2016, SMA sought clarification from the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) regarding the administrative fees charged by some managed care companies in Singapore to participating doctors.

Members who intend to or are contracting with managed care companies should pay attention to SMC's response on this matter. SMC's full reply can be found here: <https://goo.gl/ZudlwE>.

MEETING WITH HSA ON HEALTH PRODUCTS ACT

On 4 October 2016, Health Sciences Authority (HSA) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Mimi Choong met with representatives from SMA; Academy of Medicine, Singapore; College of Family Physicians Singapore; and Singapore Dental Association. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the transition of regulatory controls of pharmaceutical products in the Medicines Act to the controls of therapeutic products in the Health Products Act (HPA).

The HPA was introduced in 2007 to consolidate and streamline the regulatory controls of health products under one single Act. The consolidation was done in phases to cover a range of health products, including medical devices and cosmetic products. In addition, pharmaceutical products will henceforth be regulated as "therapeutic products" (TP) in the HPA. Thereafter, the existing controls under the Medicines Act and Poisons Act will no longer be applicable to pharmaceutical products.

HSA informed the associations that following two public consultations and focus group discussions, the regulations for TP were gazetted on 15 July 2016 and will take effect on 1 November 2016.

SMA had highlighted various concerns including implementation timeline and compliance costs. HSA has since informed that it will allow a period of six months from 1 November 2016 to 30 April 2017 for practitioners to comply with the new requirements. HSA has also issued a circular to provide a summary of the changes and it can be found at <https://www.sma.org.sg/hsahealthproductsact>.

More details of the changes can be found on the HSA webpage (<https://goo.gl/ltKRfQ>).

2016 WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH SEMINAR

The SMA Seminar on Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) for medical practice owners was held on 8 October 2016 at M Hotel Singapore, with over 70 doctors and clinic assistants in attendance. Dr Wong Sin Yew from Infectious Diseases Partners Pte Ltd commenced the session by sharing some statistics from the WSH survey conducted in 2014. Ms Moon Loh from ST Electronics (E-services) Pte Ltd touched on Risk Assessment for Ambulatory Care and Infection Control Considerations in the Family Physician Clinic. Dr Adrian Wang from Gleneagles Medical Centre shared about his experience in Handling Aggressive and Violent Patients. The seminar was well received and closed with a lively panel discussion with the attendees. ◆

PROFILE



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