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## SARS Preventive Measures Course (SPMC) for Medical Clinics

The DMS, in his letter dated 12 May 2003, informed of the MOH's decision that SARS preventive measures must be instituted as a standard procedure in every medical and dental clinic as a requirement under the PHMC Act. These measures include: (1) Triage and patient declaration (2) Referral and notification (3) Infection control measures (4) Administrative surveillance of healthcare workers (5) Checking against updated list of SARS cases and their contacts (6) Training course (7) Audit.

To assist doctors in non-institutional practice to understand how to institute SARS preventive measures in their clinics, and to be ready for the MOH audit, the Academy of Medicine (AM), College of Family Physicians Singapore (CFPS) and Singapore Medical Association (SMA) jointly conducted 8 sessions of SARS Preventive Measures Course (SPMC) from 17 to 25 May 2003, at the Alumni Auditorium. Earlier, on 14 May 2003, a group of about 60 volunteers, consisting of doctors, nurses and healthcare assistants, attended a Train the Trainers (TOT) session for the SPMC, conducted by MOH and CFPS. These volunteer trainers were then invited to assist in conducting the SPMC.

The SMA, in its circular of 10 May 2003, encouraged every clinic to send at least one representative to the one-session course. Free admission was granted to members of the AM, CFPS or SMA. The registration fee for non-members was S\$15. One CME point was awarded for the course.

The first weekend sessions on 17 and 18 May 2003 were fully registered with about 120 participants on each afternoon. The topics covered included: (1) Etiology and Epidemiology of SARS (2) Clinic Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for SARS Preventive Measures (3) Clinic Cleaning Procedures & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (4) Q&A Session.



A/Prof Cheong Pak Yean, President of the CFPS and a trainer at the SPMC, demonstrates proper hand-washing.

Participants were requested to bring their own respirator masks if they wish to participate in the mask-fitting sessions. There was a video presentation and live demonstration on proper hand-washing, wearing of the N95 mask, surgical gown and gloves at every session. Everyday, the hour-long Q&A Session saw active participation from the audience, who had several queries, as well as pertinent feedback and suggestions for the Ministry. The Q&A panel consisted of representatives from the professional bodies (AM, CFPS, SMA) and MOH.

**SMA members who were unable to attend the SPMC, but have queries or wish to share their experiences with other members, are invited to participate in the online SARS Forum in the Members' Corner of the SMA website. ■**

### ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPULSORY CME REQUIREMENTS

In view of the cancellation/postponement of many CME events since March 2003 by CME Providers due to the current SARS outbreak, doctors have expressed concerns that they will not be able to meet the compulsory CME requirements for renewal of their practising certificates (PC) in 2005.

The SMC has made some adjustments to the compulsory CME requirements for fully and conditionally registered medical practitioners.

Currently, doctors are allowed to earn up to 10 CME points within a 2-year qualifying period, or 5 CME points within a 1-year qualifying period, through self study activities (Category 3A), such as the reading of articles from accredited medical journals and clinical practice guidelines.

With immediate effect, doctors will be allowed to earn up to 20 CME points through self-study activities under Category 3A for calendar year 2003. Therefore, doctors whose CME qualifying period is from 1 Jan 2003 to 31 Dec 2004 may earn up to 25 points (20 for 2003, 5 for 2004) from self-study activities out of the required total of 50 points.

**For further queries, please call the SMC at  
Tel: 6372 3060.**



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Published by the Singapore Medical Association, Level 2, Alumni Medical Centre, 2 College Road, Singapore 169850.  
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