

MEDICAL REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (Chapter 161)

ORDER MADE BY THE INQUIRY PANEL OF
THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

DR KWOK TSZ YEUNG (REGISTRATION NO.: M16169)

It is hereby notified that after due inquiry held on 25 October 2021 in accordance with section 21 of the Medical Registration Ordinance, Chapter 161 of the Laws of Hong Kong, the Inquiry Panel of the Medical Council of Hong Kong ('Inquiry Panel') found Dr KWOK Tsz Yeung (Registration No.: M16169) guilty of the following disciplinary charge:—

'That on 22 May 2019, he, being a registered medical practitioner, disregarded his professional responsibility to his patient ('the Patient'), in that he prescribed 'Etoricoxib' to the Patient in the circumstances where he should have ensured having known about the Patient's allergy to 'Arcoxia'.

In relation to the facts alleged, he has been guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.'

Dr KWOK's name has been included in the General Register from 2 July 2010 to the present. His name has also been included in the Specialist Register under the speciality of Orthopaedics and Traumatology since 7 June 2017.

On 22 May 2019, the Patient consulted Dr KWOK at his clinic for the first time. Upon registration, the Patient wrote 'Arcoxia 120 mg/Hyoscine Butylbromide BP 10 mg' in the space for drug allergy history on the patient registration form which she submitted to the clinic for registration purpose.

After examining the Patient, Dr KWOK prescribed the Patient with, among other medications, Etoricoxib tablets.

On 23 May 2019, the Patient developed lip swelling after taking the medications prescribed by Dr KWOK. The Patient rang up the clinic about her swelling but was told not to go back for management. The Patient was admitted to the Accident and Emergency Departments of Tin Shui Wai Hospital and Pok Oi Hospital respectively. The Patient was diagnosed with drug allergy.

By a statutory declaration dated 13 May 2020, the Patient lodged a complaint against Dr KWOK with the Medical Council.

Dr KWOK admitted the factual particulars of the disciplinary charge against him.

Prior to consultation, the Patient had made known in the patient registration form, which was provided by Dr KWOK's own clinic, that she had allergy to Arcoxia. Arcoxia is the trade name for Etoricoxib. Nonetheless, Dr KWOK still prescribed her with Etoricoxib tablets, which should not be taken by patients who are allergic to Arcoxia.

Patients are entitled to, and they often do, rely on the vigilance of doctors who should exercise reasonable care in avoiding prescription of drug to which they have a known allergy. Allergic reaction to drug can be very serious and potentially life-threatening. In a patient with a reported allergy to a particular drug, the risk of having an allergic reaction after taking the same drug again would be high.

Prescription of Etoricoxib tablets to the Patient, whom Dr KWOK ought to have known was allergic to, or was susceptible to adverse reaction, was clearly inappropriate and unsafe.

In the view of the Inquiry Panel, Dr KWOK's conduct had fallen below the standards expected of registered medical practitioners in Hong Kong. The Inquiry Panel therefore found Dr KWOK guilty of misconduct in a professional respect as charged.

Having considered the serious nature and gravity of the disciplinary charge for which Dr KWOK was found guilty and the mitigation, the Inquiry Panel ordered that Dr KWOK be removed from the General Register for a period of 2 months. The Inquiry Panel further ordered that the removal order be suspended for a period of 12 months on condition that Dr KWOK shall complete courses, to be pre-approved by the Council Chairman and to the equivalent of 10 CME points, on safe prescription of drugs during the suspension period.

The aforesaid orders are published in the *Gazette* in accordance with section 21(5) of the Medical Registration Ordinance. The full decision of the Inquiry Panel of the Medical Council is published in the official website of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (<http://www.mchk.org.hk>).

LAU Wan-ye, Joseph *Chairman, The Medical Council of Hong Kong*