



SP Bulletin

Issue No.: 1

October 2005

Dear Pharmacist,

'SP Bulletin', Singapore Pharmacy Board's quarterly newsletter, will serve to inform and update pharmacists about registration and other professional matters. This inaugural issue looks at the much talked about compulsory Continuing Professional Education for pharmacists.



Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

What is CPE?

CPE refers to the planned and structured learning programmes (e.g. lectures, seminars, workshops, etc.) conducted by accredited agencies. These programmes are designed to promote the development of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes of an individual and thus help to ensure one's professional competence. Self-reading, online education, publication and presentation of papers related to one's profession are some activities that could also be broadly considered as CPE.

Why make CPE compulsory?

It is important for pharmacists as professionals to keep themselves up-to-date with new medical & pharmaceutical knowledge, and changes in their field(s) of practice in order to remain competent. The Singapore Pharmacy Board (SPB) believes that it is vital for pharmacists to continually upgrade themselves and adopt lifelong learning for the benefit of patients and the public at large. Compulsory CPE also aligns pharmacists in upholding our Code of Ethics:

- A pharmacist shall strive to achieve and maintain the highest standard of professional services.
- A pharmacist shall keep abreast of the progress of pharmaceutical knowledge in order to maintain the highest standard of professional competence.

Compulsory CPE for healthcare professionals has been implemented in advanced countries as far back as 1975 (30 years ago). Locally, the Singapore Medical Council has implemented compulsory CPE for doctors 2 years ago. The Singapore Dental Council will be following suit very soon.

When will compulsory CPE for pharmacists be implemented?

Compulsory CPE for pharmacists will be implemented in September 2006. The amended Pharmacists Registration Act will require a pharmacist to meet minimum CPE requirements to be retained in the Register of Pharmacists and to be issued with a Practising Certificate.

How do I submit the CPE activities that I have participated in?

The SPB has developed a Continuing Professional Development System (CPDS) to enable pharmacists to submit electronically the CPE activities that they have participated in. Briefing sessions will be on 19 & 26 November 2005 at 10am and on 3 & 10 December 2005 at 2pm to introduce and demonstrate the various functions of the CPDS. The CPE handbook, which is currently being prepared, will also provide step by step instructions on how CPE submissions can be made by pharmacists.

Although compulsory CPE for pharmacists will only be implemented in September 2006, pharmacists can begin submitting their CPE activities electronically once the SPB issues them with their log-on ID and password. Pharmacists are encouraged to do so early to get familiarised with the CPDS before compulsory CPE is launched.

Which are the CPE activities that would be recognised by the SPB?

The following are some of the activities that will be recognised by the SPB:

- Grand Ward Rounds
- In-house CPE Activities (e.g. Journal Club)
- Local conferences, lectures, seminars, workshops and short courses conducted by SPB accredited course providers
- Overseas conferences, lectures, seminars, workshops and short courses
- Publication of papers
- Oral presentation of original papers
- Presentation of posters
- Reading of articles from refereed journals/ recommended textbooks
- Online education programmes



More information on compulsory CPE in the next issue of SPBulletin. SPBulletin will soon be circulated electronically. Please update the Pharmacy Board office with your email address, if you have not already done so.

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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.

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