



SPCONNECT

The e-newsletter from the Singapore Pharmacy Council

Issue 4, October 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Singapore Pharmacy Council is now 1 year old

Update from the Registrar/Chief Pharmacist's desk

CPE Report as at 31 August 2009

Updating changes of your particulars to SPC

SPC Competency Exam

Public Health Lectures

SINGAPORE PHARMACY COUNCIL IS NOW ONE YEAR OLD

The Singapore Pharmacy Board (SPB) was first established in 1934 for the operation of the Straits Settlements Registration of Pharmacists Ordinance (1903).

The amended Pharmacists Registration Act was passed in Parliament on 20 Sep 2007, received the Presidential Assent on 2 October 2007 and was enforced on 1 September 2008. The Singapore Pharmacy Board was then reconstituted as a statutory board and renamed the Singapore Pharmacy Council.

The Singapore Pharmacy Council has just passed its first year in operation. In this first year the Council had revised the Code of Ethics which was first distributed at SPC Pharmacist's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony on 13 May 2009.

The Council also introduced a category of "inactive status" for pharmacists who are not working or who are not in the active practice of pharmacy. This group of pharmacists may apply for lower CPE requirements.

Please see the details in the SPConnect July 2009 issue

SPConnect issue 3 July 2009

<http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/416/221/SPConnect%20Issue3%20July%202009.pdf>



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Singapore Pharmacy Council 2008- 2011

President:
Mr Wu Tuck Seng

Registrar:
Ms Ang Hui Gek

Members:

A/P Chan Sui Yung

Ms Chan Soo Chung

Ms Chan Yiam Moi

Ms Lita Chew

Mr Koe Khoo Poh

Dr Christina Lim

Ms Linda Seah

Mr Sia Chong Hock

Dr. Ellick Wong

UPDATE FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

The Registrar of SPC who is also the Chief Pharmacist, Ms Ang Hui Gek gave her update at the 20th Singapore Pharmacy Congress on Sunday 26 July 2009. The audience of more than 500 pharmacists heard about the achievements of the Chief Pharmacist's Office and the Singapore Pharmacy Board/Singapore Pharmacy Council over the last 3 years from 2006 to 2009.

Some of the relevant areas that she touched on include:

Major Activities and Achievements (2006 –2008)

1. Enactment of Pharmacists Registration Act 2007
2. Statutorisation of Singapore Pharmacy Council
3. Pharmacist Oath & Pledge Affirmation Ceremony
4. Competency Standards for Pharmacists
5. SPBulletin, SPConnect
6. Singapore Pharmacy Board Planning Retreat 2006
7. Pharmacist Survey 2007
8. Reinvestment Funding from MOH for building capacity and capability in the Public Sector
9. MOH Clinical Pharmacy Practice Guidelines
10. Preceptor Training Workshop
11. Competency Examination (from 2008)
12. Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Infrastructure

Strategic Plan for 2009

1. Establish Pharmacist Specialist Register
2. Set-up Complaints Panel
3. Revision of Code of Ethics (completed)
4. Clinical Practice Guidelines – Management of Drug Overdose and Poisoning
5. Pharmacy Leadership & Mentoring
6. Medication Reconciliation by Pharmacists -Blueprint
7. Pre-Registration Pharmacist Training Review
8. Pharmacist Career Development –Policy papers

The slide presentation is available here.



From Registrar



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Pharmacists' Pledge

"As a pharmacist, I sincerely pledge to:

***P**ractise my profession with honesty, integrity and compassion;*

***H**onour traditions and embrace advancements in my profession;*

***A**bide by the governing laws and Code of Ethics; Respect and keep in confidence patient information;*

***M**aintain a high standard of professional competence through life long learning;*

***A**lways place patients' interests first, and treat them equally;*

***C**ollaborate with other healthcare colleagues to achieve the desired treatment outcomes;*

***I**mpart my knowledge, experience and skills to nurture future pharmacists;*

***S**trive to provide high quality and cost-effective health services and products;*

***T**ranslate scientific advances into better healthcare.*

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honour."

YOUR PERSONAL MID-QUALIFYING PERIOD CPE REPORT

The Singapore Pharmacy Council will be sending every pharmacist with valid practising certificate their personal CPE report one-year into the current Qualifying Period: 1 September 2008 - 31 August 2010

Please note that you have **until 31 Aug 2010** to fulfil your CPE requirements to be eligible to renew your practising certificate (PC) when it expires in December 2010.

You may earn CPE points by participating in accredited activities from the following categories and submitting your credit claims online:

Category 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B CPE Activities	
Cat 1A	In-house CPE activities, or Ad-hoc local CPE activities organised by non-accredited CPE providers
Cat 1B	Local activities organised by accredited CPE providers
Cat 1C	Overseas events (e.g. Scientific meetings, Conferences, etc)
Cat 2A	Publications of original work in journals
Cat 2B	Oral / Poster presentation of original work
Cat 3A	Self-study (e.g. Reading of recognised journals & books, or online education programmes)
Cat 3B	Postgraduate Study in Pharmacy-related disciplines

You may submit your credit claims and monitor the record of your CPE points by logging onto the SPC website (<http://www.spc.gov.sg>) with your pharmacist registration number (PRN) and password. You may also login with SingPass.

If you fail to meet the CPE requirements by **31 August 2010**, you must inform the Council for an extended grace period to meet your CPE requirements. Points earned during this grace period cannot be reused again for the following qualifying period.



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Fax: (65) 6478 5069

SPC Operating hours:
Mondays to Fridays:
9:00am to 5:00pm.

Closed on Saturdays,
Sundays and public
holidays.

Official Address:
Singapore Pharmacy Council
College of Medicine Building
16 College Road
Singapore 169854

Office Address:
81 Kim Keat Road
#09-00 NKF Centre
Singapore 328836

Visit the [Singapore Pharmacy Council Website](http://www.spc.gov.sg)
(<http://www.spc.gov.sg>)

We wish to draw to your attention that, if you still fail to meet your CPE requirements after the grace period, you will not be able to renew your PC and will have to cease practising until you have met the shortfall of CPE points and have renewed your PC.

CPE Statistics as at 31 August 2009	Number	%
Pharmacists with valid PC	1605	100%
Pharmacists who have fully met CPE requirement	150	9.35%
Pharmacists who have 50% or more CPE points but have not met their CPE requirement	476	29.66%
Pharmacists who have less than 50% but more than 0 CPE points	702	43.74%
Pharmacists with 0 CPE point	277	17.26%
Pharmacists who have not met their CPE requirements	1455	90.65%
Pharmacists who have logged into CPDS	1328	82.74%



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UPDATING YOUR PARTICULARS

It is important that you update SPC of any changes in your particulars e.g. your e-mail address, new employer, etc so that timely professional information can be sent to you by the SPC and for us to receive feedback from you. For your convenience, you may inform the Registrar in writing via email to enquiries@spc.gov.sg of any changes to your particulars. Please call us if clarification is needed.

The Pharmacist Registration Act 2007 (No. 48 of 2007) Section 15 (4) - (6) requires that all registered pharmacists inform the Registrar in writing of:

(a) any change in his name, residential address, practice address or such of his other particulars as may be prescribed, within 28 days of the change;

(b) any alteration or addition to his qualification.

Any person who contravenes this shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

A person who makes a report of a change in his residential address under section 8 of the National Registration Act (Cap. 201) shall be deemed to have complied with The Pharmacist Registration Act 2007 (No. 48 of 2007) Section 15 (4) on the date that he makes the report.



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The new revised Code of Ethics

A copy has been distributed to all registered pharmacists.

If you have not received a copy yet, please e-mail enquiries@spc.gov.sg or write in to us to request for a copy.

Please indicate the address to which it should be sent.

Do note that all registered pharmacists are legally bound to abide by the revised Code of Ethics.

Click link below for the: [Revised Code of Ethics](#)

SPC Competency Examinations

The Singapore Pharmacy Council administers Competency Exam as part of the entry requirements for all new pre-registration pharmacists into the pharmacy profession. This is to ensure competency and fitness to practise.

In 2008, the competency exams were held twice a year, in February and August. Exams were conducted quarterly; in February, April, August and the next exam is scheduled for 30th November 2009.

The competency exams are set and managed by a Board of Examiners. It is a closed book examination and each paper comprises 100 multiple choice questions. The time allocated is 1 hour and 40 minutes with the passing mark set at 60%. 80% of the questions are on Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Practice, 10% on Pharmacy Ethics and 10% on Pharmacy System and Procedures. The examination fee is \$300 per candidate. All de-registered pharmacists (both local & foreign trained) who have not held a practising certificate for more than 5 years and who wish to restore their names to the Register will be required to pass the forensic and competency exams. Candidates who do not pass at the first attempt are permitted to re-sit 2 times more within 2 years.

For more information on competency standards, guide to the competency exams and sample questions on competency examinations, please go to the following links:

Guide to Competency Standards

<http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/81/51/Competency%20Standards%20For%20Spore%20Pharmacists%20V1.0.pdf>

Guide to Competency Exams

[http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/48/588/Guide%20to%20Competency%20Exam%20\(Aug%202009\).pdf](http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/48/588/Guide%20to%20Competency%20Exam%20(Aug%202009).pdf)

Sample Competency Exam Questions

[http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/5/714/Sample%20Competency%20Exam%20Questions%20\(22%20Sep%202009\).pdf](http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/MungoBlobs/5/714/Sample%20Competency%20Exam%20Questions%20(22%20Sep%202009).pdf)



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Summary of Competency Exam Results Feb 2008 to August 2009

	No. of Candidates	Passed		Failed	
		No.	%	No.	%
February 2008	76	76	100%	0	0
August 2008	5	5	100%	0	0
February 2009	96	89	93%	7	7%
April 2009	13	5	38%	8	62%
August 2009	18	18	100%	0	0%

Ministry of Health Public Health Lectures in October 2009 @ the COMB

The Ministry of Health holds regular public health lectures at the College of Medicine Building (COMB) for healthcare professionals. Each session lasts one hour and is usually held from 1 pm to 2 pm at either the lecture room or the auditorium in the COMB. You may attend the event and get 1 CPE point. However, do note that lunch is not provided. If you are not currently on the mailing list and would like to be informed of these events, please e-mail your request to enquiries@spc.gov.sg

Pharmacists are reminded to write their names, PRN (Pharmacists Registration Number) and to sign the attendance sheet. Failure to do so may disqualify them from claiming CPE points.



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Topic:	What is the Rationale for Pre-Pandemic Vaccines?
Speaker:	Dr Annelies Wilder Smith
Date & Time:	Thursday 8 October 2009, 1pm-2pm
Venue:	Lecture Room, College of Medicine Building

Topic:	Obesity epidemiology, prevention and control
Speaker:	Dr Ong Sok King
Date & Time:	Thursday 15 October 2009, 1pm-2pm
Venue:	Lecture Room, College of Medicine Building

Topic:	Malaria-the future challenges
Speaker:	Dr Indra Vythilingam
Date & Time:	Thursday 29 October 2009, 1pm-2pm
Venue:	Lecture Room, College of Medicine Building