



SPCONNECT

The e-newsletter from the Singapore Pharmacy Council

Issue 3, July 2009

HIGHLIGHTS:

The SPC Pharmacist's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony 2009

- SPC President's message at the Pledge Ceremony
- Press Release issued at the Pledge Ceremony

Revised Code of Ethics

How to achieve your CPE points for your 2011-2012 Practise Certificate

Inactive status and lower CPE points requirements

Updating changes of your particulars to SPC

THE SPC PHARMACIST'S PLEDGE AFFIRMATION CEREMONY 2009

The Pharmacist's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony organised by the newly constituted Singapore Pharmacy Council (SPC) was held on 13 May 2009 at the College of Medicine Building auditorium. The Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan was present, as the guest of honour, to grace the function.

This year, 89 newly registered pharmacists received their pledge affirmation certificates from the Minister for Health. Of this 15 were graduates from foreign universities. 138 pharmacists joined the newly registered pharmacists to take the pledge for the first time.



The President of the SPC, Mr Wu Tuck Seng, gave the address and presented the newly revised Code of Ethics to the new pharmacists. In his address, Mr Wu touched on sustaining and moving the pharmacy profession forward, compulsory professional education and the competency exam for pharmacists. He emphasized that the Code of Ethics was revised to be in line with the changes in the pharmacy profession and that it should be upheld by all pharmacists. The pharmacists who attended the event were presented with a copy of the revised Code of Ethics which was launched at the ceremony.

The pledge affirmation ceremony will become an annual event and all pharmacists will be given the opportunity to affirm their responsibility and commitment to the profession.



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Singapore Pharmacy Council 2008-2011

1. President
Mr. Wu Tuck Seng

2. Registrar
Ms. Ang Hui Gek

3. Members:

A/P Chan Sui Yung

Ms. Chan Soo Chung

Mrs. Chan Yiam Moi

Ms. Lita Chew

Mr. Koe Khoon Poh

Dr. Christina Lim

Ms. Linda Seah

Mr. Sia Chong Hock

Dr. Ellick Wong



The 11 member new Singapore Pharmacy Council with the Minister for Health. From left Ms. Lita Chew, Ms Chan Soo Chung, Mr. Koe Khoon Poh, Mr. Sia Chong Hock, Dr. Christina Lim, Mr. Wu Tuck Seng (President), Mr. Khaw Boon Wan (Minister for Health), Ms. Ang Hui Gek (Registrar), Ms. Chan Yiam Moi, Ms. Linda Seah, Dr. Ellick Wong, A/P Chan Sui Yung.

The SPC issued the following press release.



[Press Release](#)



[President's Speech](#)

The ceremony received good press coverage on Channel News Asia (TV and on-line); MediaCorp radio news broadcasts in English and Malay; Straits Times, Business Times and Lian He Zao Bao (print and on-line).



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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."

REVISED CODE OF ETHICS

The [revised Code of Ethics](#) was launched during the Pharmacist's Pledge Affirmation Ceremony on 13 May 2009. The aim of the revised Code of Ethics is to provide a guide for pharmacists on the expected standards from pharmacists in the discharge of their professional duties and responsibilities. As the professional conduct of pharmacists is under the jurisdiction of SPC as governed by the Pharmacists Registration Act 2007, SPC is empowered to discipline errant pharmacists who fail to uphold the standards of the Code or when they contravene any part of the Act, Regulations, or other statutes and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy. The Pharmacists' Code of Ethics was first developed in 1980 by the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) and subsequently accepted by the former Singapore Pharmacy Board (SPB) in 1981..

A. Practices & Responsibilities

1. A pharmacist shall make the care of patients as the first consideration.
2. A pharmacist shall respect and treat all patients equally, and protect their dignity and privacy.
3. A pharmacist shall comply with legal requirements, professional standards and embrace best practices in the relevant field.
4. A pharmacist shall strive to achieve and maintain high professional practice standards in the promotion and provision of health services and products.
5. A pharmacist shall be responsible for personal fitness to practise.

B. Professional Qualities

6. A pharmacist shall act with honesty and integrity, adhere to accepted standards of professional conduct, uphold public trust and confidence, and maintain the reputation of the profession.
7. A pharmacist shall keep abreast of advancements in pharmaceutical knowledge so as to maintain a high standard of competency in professional practice for the assurance of effective outcomes and safety in patients.
8. A pharmacist shall ensure that research activities are conducted in accordance to best practice guidelines that are applicable to the area of research.

C. Inter-Professional Relationships

9. A pharmacist shall collaborate with other healthcare professionals, patients and caregivers to achieve optimal treatment outcomes for their patients.
10. A pharmacist shall impart his knowledge, experience and skills to nurture future and new pharmacists.



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HOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR CPE POINTS FOR YOUR NEXT PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

We are now almost half way into the Qualifying Period (QP): 1st September 2008 - 31st August 2010. Please review your CPE status and start clocking in CPE points now so as to avoid a rush later.

Logging on

- Log on to the SPC website at <http://www.spc.gov.sg>
- Go to the Pharmacist/Registered User section. Your user ID is your Pharmacist Registration Number (PRN) that is on your purple Practising Certificate. If you have forgotten your password, e-mail us at enquiries@spc.gov.sg and we will re-set your password for you.
- Alternatively you may use your Sing Pass to sign in but you will need to install Java if it is not installed in your computer.

Familiarising yourself with the CPE GUIDEBOOK

You may download the CPE Guidebook from:

<http://www.spc.gov.sg/html/1153710729937.html>

CPE Activity Types

Category 1A (in-house)

You may claim points from Category 1A (in-house) events for Grand Ward Rounds, Journal Clubs and for in-house courses and events that are CPE-related.

Category 1A (ad-hoc)

You may claim points from Category 1A (ad-hoc) events if you attend scientific / medical / pharmaceutical conferences or courses in Singapore organised by non-accredited CPE providers.



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Ministry of Health's Public Health Lectures

Please note that the Public Health (PH) lectures that were held at 1 pm on Thursdays at the College Of Medicine Building (COMB) have been discontinued till further notice due to the current H1N1 situation

Category 1B

When you attend talks by SPC accredited CPE providers, they will submit the points on your behalf. Please ensure that you mark your attendance with them and indicate your PRN (Pharmacist Registration Number)

You may check for local **1B events** by using the link <http://www.spc.gov.sg/spb/EventCalendarSearch.do?notprotected=Y>

The information includes the title, lecturer, date, time, venue and organisers' contact details. Please contact the event organisers for assistance before approaching SPC.

Category 1C

All claims based on participation in overseas events organised by accepted overseas accreditation agencies will be accepted and approved.

Events organised by non-accredited organisers will only be considered for approval after you submit the event details and certificate of participation to SPC office for review and processing.

Category 2A

Only claims made based on publication of original research materials in accepted overseas peer-reviewed journals within the current qualifying period will be accepted and approved. **You should submit the published article to SPC office for review and processing when requested to do so.**

Category 2B

Only claims made based on presentation of original research materials at accredited events within the current qualifying period will be accepted and approved. **You should submit the presentation slides or soft copies of posters presented to SPC office for review and processing when requested to do so.**



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Category 3A (reading)

You may claim 3A (reading) CPE points by reading:

- Scientific, pharmaceutical or medical journals (1 point per article of at least 4 pages excluding reference section)
- Scientific, pharmaceutical or medical books (1 point per Chapter), including HSA ADR News (1 point per issue) at:

http://www.hsa.gov.sg/publish/hsaportal/en/health_products_regulation/safety_information/adr_bulletin.html

Only claims made based on readings & online education undertaken from the approved list of journals, books & online education providers will be accepted and approved. You may submit material that is not on the list to SPC via e-mail at enquiries@spc.gov.sg for review.

The [list of updated journals & books](#) is available from the 'Downloads' tab at the SPC homepage.

The [list of accredited online education providers](#) is available from the 'Useful Links' tab at the SPC homepage.

Please note the lists are not exhaustive. Upon completion of each course, you will need to print out or save the completion / summary page, and file it in your CPE dossier for future audits. You should also submit your 3A claims by logging on to your pharmacist account at www.spc.gov.sg.

Category 3B Claims

Only claims made based on participation in pharmacy-related post-graduate studies will be accepted. **You must submit evidence of participation in post-graduate education to enquiries@spc.gov.sg to support all claims made under Category 3B.** Unsubstantiated claims will be rejected.

The best strategy to achieve your CPE requirements with ease is to start early and to attend a variety of events from Categories 1A, 1B, 1C and 3A.

Random CPE Audits

You are strongly advised to keep an updated file of all your CPE activities as Singapore Pharmacy Council will perform random CPE audits. These audits will start in 2010.

Please contact SPC if you need further assistance to achieve your Continuing Professional Education points.



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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 due to one reason or other, 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.

[Revised Code of Ethics](#)

INACTIVE STATUS AND LOWER CPE POINTS REQUIREMENTS

Pharmacists who are not in active practice of pharmacy may apply for lower CPE requirements.

An inactive status is applicable to the following only:

- a) Pharmacists who are not working;
- b) Pharmacists who are working in non-pharmacy sectors.

By definition, a pharmacist is deemed to be in "the practise of pharmacy" (First Schedule PRA 2007) if he/she is involved in any acts or activities that:

Apply the knowledge and science of pharmacy in:

- (a) Interpreting, evaluating and implementing prescriptions of persons authorised by law to prescribe medication;
- (b) Compounding, labeling, dispensing, distributing and administering medication;
- (c) Initiating and modifying medication therapy in accordance with the collaborative practice agreements established and approved by health care facilities or voluntary agreements with persons authorised by law to prescribe medication;
- (d) Patient assessment and counseling for the purpose of recommending and dispensing medication;
- (e) Managing medication therapy;
- (f) Evaluating medication use;
- (g) Manufacturing and distributing medicinal products; and
- (h) Quality assurance of medicinal products.

Pharmacists who would like to apply for inactive status may obtain the [declaration form](#) from the SPC website.

While the pharmacist is on "inactive status", he will have to achieve at least 20 CPE points. There is no minimum patient care points requirement.

When the pharmacist wishes to resume pharmacy practice, he must have attained a minimum of 25 CPE points in the 12 months preceding the date he plans to start work.



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UPDATING CHANGES OF YOUR PARTICULARS TO SPC

It is important that you update SPC of any changes in your particulars 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 should 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.