



PPS Report

DR KOH KAR CHAI
PPS Chairman

There have been comments made about the new PPS Chairman as being only aware of GP matters and not of other matters concerning the private sector. I would like to reiterate that matters relating to the private sector will be looked into regardless of which specialty is involved.

An issue under heated discussion of late is the matter of medical clinic accreditation and quality improvement programmes which the GPs are encouraged to undertake. The sentiment amongst most of our doctors is that GPs should not be forced to undertake such programmes as there are already things like the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act, as well as the soon-to-come tying in of CPD points with the renewal of APCs to ensure that the GPs and their clinics are accredited. What then of the need for such programmes?

Another point to note is that the years of experience of the GPs do count. Actively practicing GPs who continuously update themselves are not to be discounted as cough & cold specialists. They have been taking care of the health of our nation all this while. Then, why the sudden perception that they are not up to the task of doing so now? Do they not measure up to young graduates with an additional qualification with nary any experience to speak of?

It takes years of experience to mould a doctor into one who can competently treat a patient. That is how our medical training is done. We learn through all the successes as well as failures that we experience in order to become the competent doctor that we desire to be.

Even though we have been repeatedly assured that the above mentioned concerns will be taken into consideration as far as the 1Care for 1Malaysia is concerned, a large number of our member doctors are expressing their reservations based on past experiences with the Ministry of Health.

Proposed Medical Clinic Accreditation Programme by MSQH/ Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) in General Practice by AFPM

Protest, we may, if asked to undertake such programmes, but the reality is that we may be subject to such requirements at a future point in time. At the moment, we need to understand that it is VOLUNTARY in nature.

I am not positioning PPS here to tell you which is the ideal programme to go for or whether we should reject such programmes outright. Our members will need to decide for themselves as I know that they have been voicing out vehemently for or against either programme.

However, do note that the QIP programme by the AFPM has been proposed to be a joint MMA/AFPM programme. If it materialises, MMA members will then be able to take up the QIP without any need to be a member of the AFPM as was the requirement previously.

The QIP was initially set up with the objective of enabling GPs to be credentialed as Family Medicine Specialists, hence the need to confine the programme to GPs intending on taking up the Family Medicine academic courses.

With the proposal of the programme being a joint MMA/AFPM initiative, the aim here is now to improve the quality of the GPs and their clinics on a voluntary basis at a low cost as compared to the programme by the MSQH. Qualifying issues are being discussed and will be made known to our members.

The academic component, i.e. the postgraduate Family Medicine training and courses, will remain the prerogative of the AFPM as it should rightly be so. MMA members will not be required to take up such academic courses if they do not wish to.

I may be jumping the gun by making a statement on this proposal, but it is done with the intention of keeping our members in the loop of things, hoping that they will study the matter carefully before coming out with their own conclusions.



RM4 to certify fitness of a commercial driver

It was brought up in the media that doctors are charging as low as RM4 in order to certify a commercial driver as being fit to continue driving. This is in relation to the annual renewal of their licences. It was also alleged that certain doctors do not even see the applicants but allow the nurse to do it over the counter. Our stand here is that, notwithstanding the low amount of charges (which is the prerogative of the doctor), it is unethical of the doctors involved not to even see the applicant. A medical examination needs to be done before certifying the applicant. The contention here is that the form only requires us to state whether the applicant is fit or not. Being experienced doctors, I am sure that the certifying doctor will know how and what to examine before the applicant is certified as being fit to drive.

Enforcement by Pharmaceutical Services, MOH

Complaints of high handedness of certain enforcement officials have surfaced again. Details are sketchy as most are anecdotal. It is understood that private clinics are to comply with the regulations of the Pharmaceutical

Services Division and the enforcement officers have a job to do, but why the need to make the encounters unpleasant? This issue has been discussed with Dato' Dr Hasan Bin Abdul Rahman, our present Director General of Health. Please forward any untoward incidences to PPS MMA so that they can be looked into.

Certain clinics have been put under scrutiny as they have been overprescribing psychotropics to their patients. It has been recommended that MMC take action against such clinics. Our doctors are reminded to be ethical about the usage of psychotropics.

Certain formulations of T. Midazolam as well as single formulations of T. Dextromethorphan may soon be deregistered on account of abuse.

Practice of Aesthetic Medicine

Most of you may be aware by now of the statement given by our Hon. Health Minister on the issue of our doctors practising aesthetic medicine. He has expressed the need for such doctors to undergo further training in order that they qualify for accreditation to allow them to practice aesthetic medicine.

PPSMMA belongs to all of us who are in the private sector. You may communicate with PPS via emails, casesurf@yahoo.com or pps@mma.org.my. **M**



MMA WILAYAH

for
continuous Professional Development
and
the Solidarity of Fellow Doctors

7th Primary Care Symposium

8th & 9th October 2011

Clinic Nurses Symposium

9th October 2011

Venue: Eastin Hotel, Petaling Jaya

Please visit

www.mmawilayah.com
for latest information and
updates
email: mma_wp@yahoo.com

First Announcement



For Primary Care Doctors and all other
Doctors who are interested in the field
of Primary Care Medicine

CPD points will be awarded