



16 July 2011

Joint Media Release

For Immediate Release

Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore Partners the Agency for Integrated Care to enhance safe medication practices in nursing homes

On 16 July 2011, the Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) and the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on a programme to bring pharmaceutical care into the nursing homes run by Voluntary Welfare Organisations. Starting with a one-year pilot, the Pharmaceutical Care Programme seeks to enhance the capability of nursing homes in managing their residents' medication needs more effectively.

2 The MOU was signed by Ms Christine Teng, President of PSS and Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC at the 21st Singapore Pharmaceutical Congress. It was witnessed by Ms M K Fatimah, Immediate Past President of PSS, and Ms Lynda Soong, Chief for Community Care Development Division of AIC.

3 Under the programme, PSS and AIC will help expand the network of available pharmacists to support and assist the nursing homes. These pharmacists can be called upon to review residents' medication, especially residents who need to take multiple medicines. In addition, the programme will cover a study on the needs, strengths and gaps of participating nursing homes' medication management systems. Findings from the study will enable PSS and AIC to develop and facilitate appropriate training programmes for the nursing homes' healthcare staff. The training will equip the staff with relevant skills to better manage residents' medication. Reviews of nursing homes processes for medication administration will also be carried out. Improvements will be made to ensure continual quality care. If the programme proves

successful, AIC and PSS plan to extend it to more nursing homes and even homecare providers who cater to the needs of homebound elderly.

4 On the MOU signing, Ms Christine Teng of PSS said, “PSS is extremely pleased to forge this partnership with AIC with the aim to improve the use of medications in the community so as to achieve better health outcomes for the elderly.”

5 Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC said, “I am heartened by the nursing homes’ efforts to continue to improve their operating standards. AIC is proud to have facilitated this partnership. It is an effort which will benefit nursing homes seeking greater pharmaceutical support and expertise.”

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About the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration. Our mission is to achieve best health outcomes for our patients by empowering clients and coordinating access to appropriate care, enable stakeholders to strengthen the primary and community care sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.

About Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS)

The Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore (PSS) is a non-profit organisation representing pharmacists in Singapore. Founded in 1905 as the Straits Pharmaceutical Society, today it is steered by an elected council comprising a president and 11 council members. The society aims to maximize the contribution of pharmacists to the healthcare of Singapore residents. This is done by working with various stake holders to provide our patients and public with high quality pharmaceutical services with emphasis on safe, efficacious and cost effective drug treatments. In addition, the society advocates health promotion and healthy lifestyle through disease prevention and responsible self-care/self-medication. As the professional body for pharmacists, it also runs a comprehensive year-long continuing education programme where all members are strongly encouraged to participate and keep themselves updated professionally. For more information, please visit www.pss.org.sg