

# OVERVIEW OF “MANAGEMENT OF FAMILY VIOLENCE” FAMILY PRACTICE SKILLS COURSE

A/Prof Goh Lee Gan

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## INTRODUCTION

This Family Practice Skills Course is jointly organized by the College with, and sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) as part of the Ministry’s mission of updating frontline workers, including primary care doctors, on the understanding and management of Family Violence in Singapore. As has been pointed out by Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and Sports, in the foreword of the MCYS publication Protecting Families from violence – the Singapore Experience, 2009 -- “for years, many have perceived family violence as a private family affair. However, the fact that the violence occurs in the family, an environment expected to be safe and protective, makes family violence particularly distressing.” We should all contribute to reduce this to the minimum.

Like many other social issues that we face, family violence is a complex phenomenon that is multifaceted. It requires responses from all sectors of society to co-operate and collaborate in ensuring the safety and well-being of families. Singapore’s strategy in tackling family violence is to manage the victims, manage the abusers, and strengthen the families affected by violence through (1) a legislative framework, (2) the “helping hands” approach, (3) care giver information update and training and (4) public education.

There are many useful publications on the subject of family violence – spousal, child, and elderly violence. One of these is the Integrated Management of Family Violence manual by MCYS, first published in 1999. This has been recently updated in 2009. Attendees at the forthcoming Family Practice Skills Course will each receive a copy of this manual.

The College would like to encourage as many primary care doctors as possible to participate in this course. You can choose to participate in one or more, or all of the elements of this course – distance learning, seminars and workshops. The dates of the seminars and workshops are 29 & 30 January 2011. We look forward to see you.

As a continuation of its training mission for primary care doctors, MCYS will also be organizing regional workshops to enhance the practical skills of consultation, assessment, and

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management of various aspects of family violence. There is also an annual symposium on family violence organized by MCYS as the lead agency.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CME POINTS

This Family Practice Skills Course is made up of the following components. You can choose to participate in one or more parts of it. The CME points that will be awarded are also indicated below.

### Components and CME Points

- Distance Learning Course – 6 units (6 CME points upon completing the Distance Learning Online Assessment)
- 2 Seminars (2 CME points)
- 2 Workshops (max. of 2 CME points)
- 10 Readings – read 5 out of 10 recommended journals (max. of 5 CME points for the whole CME year)

### Distance Learning Course

- Unit 1 : The Singapore Strategy in Management of Family Violence  
*A/Prof Goh Lee Gan*
- Unit 2 : Management of Child Abuse in Singapore  
*A/Prof Goh Lee Gan*
- Unit 3 : Spousal Violence and Child Witnesses of Violence  
*A/Prof Goh Lee Gan*
- Unit 4 : Role of Police in the Management of Family Violence  
*Dr Jonathan Pang*
- Unit 5 : Role of GPs in Management of Family Violence  
*Dr Wong Tien Hua*
- Unit 6 : Management of Elder Abuse  
*Dr Jonathan Pang*

## COURSE TOPIC DETAILS

### Unit 1: The Singapore Strategy in Management of Family Violence

- Introduction
- Definition of Family Violence in Singapore and Family Member
- Singapore Strategy
- Services and Programmes
- Some Figures on Prevalence and Trends
- Ongoing Challenges
- Conclusions

Unit 2: Management of Child Abuse in Singapore

- Introduction
- Definition and types of child abuse
- Singapore data on child abuse
- Legislative framework on child protection in Singapore
- MCYS' Roles in child protection
- Preventive measures
- Reporting a case of suspected child abuse
- Managing a case of suspected child abuse
- Conclusions

Unit 3: Spousal Violence and Child Witnesses

- Introduction
- Spousal violence – most prevalent form of family violence
- Causes, theories, and consequences of spousal violence
- Index of suspicion and assessment of danger to the victim
- Managing spousal violence
- Managing child witnesses
- Conclusions

Unit 4: Role of Police in the Management of Family Violence

- Introduction
- Principal considerations by the Police
- Notifying the Police
- Other avenues of help or referrals by the Police
- Involvement in other organisations and workgroups
- Conclusions

Unit 5: Role of GPs in Management of Family Violence

- Introduction
- Have a High Index of Suspicion for Family Violence
- Create a Conducive Environment
- Establish if There are Any Children at Home
- Be Proactive in Identifying Victims of Abuse
- Look for Signs of Abuse
- Management – What to do if a Patient Discloses Domestic Abuse
- Conclusions

Unit 6: Management of Elder Abuse and Neglect

- Introduction
- Definitions and types of elder abuse and neglect
- Causes, risk factors, characteristics, and theories of elder abuse
- Recognition of signs and symptoms
- Interviewing the elder victim
- Referral and support
- Laws protecting the elderly
- Conclusions

**FACE-TO-FACE SESSIONS****Seminar 1: 29 January 2011****2.00pm – 3.30pm**

Unit 1: The Singapore Strategy in Management of Family Violence

Unit 2: Management of Child Abuse in Singapore

**Workshop 1: 29 January 2011****4.00pm – 5.30pm**

Unit 3: Spousal Violence and Child Witnesses

Workshop A: Demo/Skills/Role Play: Spousal violence and child witnesses of violence

**Seminar 2: 30 January 2011****2.00pm – 3.30pm**

Unit 4: Role of Police in the Management of Family Violence

Unit 5: Role of GPs in Management of Family Violence

**Workshop 2: 30 January 2011****4.00pm – 5.30pm**

Unit 6: Management of Elder Abuse and Neglect

Workshop B: Demo/Skills/Role Play: Elder abuse