Tobacco retailer’s licence revoked over sale of cigarettes to 11-year-old

SINGAPORE — The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has revoked the licence of a tobacco retailer for selling cigarettes to a 11-year-old boy. The authority also said it suspended the licence of another tobacco retailer for selling cigarettes to a 14-year-old boy. Both retailers were also fined S$2,000 under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act.

In the first eight months of this year, 3,651 youths under the age of 18 were caught for smoking offences, down from the 5,968 in 2011. Last year, 3,651 youths under the age of 18 were caught for such offences, according to the HSA.

The employee of the shop, which is located at 536, Upper Serangoon Road, failed to check the age of the buyer before selling the product to him, according to the HSA.

In the case involving the 14-year-old, the HSA said its officers had been observing the vicinity of Ghee Huat Provision Shop at 45, Bendemeer Road, and caught the employee selling cigarettes.

Under the Act, anyone caught selling tobacco products to persons below the age of 18 is liable, upon conviction in court, to a maximum fine of up to S$85,000 for the first offence and up to S$100,000 for the second or subsequent offence.

In addition, the tobacco retail licence will be suspended for six months for the first offence and revoked for the second offence. However, if any outlet is found selling tobacco products to minors under-18 in school uniform or those below 12 years of age, the tobacco retail licence will be revoked, even at the first offence.

The HSA also warned the public from buying tobacco products on behalf of minors.

BIGGER ROLE FOR PRIMARY CARE IN COMING YEARS

Academy to help meet changing healthcare needs of elderly

Launch of Family Medicine Academy will help train, groom more doctors to treat people with chronic conditions

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SINGAPORE — Across nine polyclinics run by the National Healthcare Group, the bulk of patients suffering from chronic conditions are aged between 45 and 74 — a clear indication of the changing healthcare needs and demands of an ageing population, according to Health Ministry Permanent Secretary Tan Ching Yee.

Speaking at the official opening of Singapore’s first Family Medicine Academy at Bukit Batok Polyclinic yesterday, she noted that the proportion of Singapore’s population aged 65 and above will more than double so noted a shift in the focus of medicine a career as they contribute to Singapore’s healthcare system,” she added.

Among the first to be trained at the academy would be the pioneering cohort of 54 students from the new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC-Medicine) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). The academy is jointly set up by LKC-Medicine and National Healthcare Group Polyclinics (NHGP).

“We hope the early exposure to primary care will leave a deep imprint on the students and encourage more to seriously consider making family medicine a career as they contribute to Singapore’s healthcare system,” said Adjunct Associate Professor Chong Phui-Nah, Senior Director of Family Medicine Development and Education Director at the NHGP and at LKC-Medicine.

The academy contains a clinical skills laboratory for students to gain practical skills in primary care procedures, and consultation rooms for students to learn and practice their clinical examination skills on site.

Medical students from other universities will also be able to use the facility, said Mrs Tan.