



10 Ref: BME/34/2007  
06

391 New Bridge Road #04-14/15  
Police Cantonment Complex Blk A  
Singapore 088762  
Tel: 1800-236 9999  
Fax: 6226 8438

28 September 2007

Dear Community Partners

### **CRIME ALERT: CHEATING CASES AT CLINICS USING FAKE GOLD**

This letter serves to alert you on a recent spate of cheating cases at clinics where a couple would use fake gold jewellery or gold bars to pass off as genuine ones as payment in lieu of cash for consultation and medicine. The culprits would even exchange the fake gold items for money in a separate transaction with the doctor.

#### **Modus Operandi**

2. The culprits were described as a couple believed to be of foreign nationality. The ruse employed by the culprits includes the following:

- a. Culprits would claim to be tourists or refugees from Cambodia to gain sympathy.
- b. They would seek consultation and then inform the doctor that they do not have any cash to pay but are willing to part with their "gold" items in return for the service rendered.
- c. On some occasions, the culprits would inform the doctors that they needed money to purchase medical supply for their family during their three month journey to Sydney by sea.
- d. In order not to raise suspicion, the culprits would allow the doctor or nurse to bring the "gold" items to pawnshop for verification. However it is not known if the culprits had swapped the fake gold with genuine ones in the process as the pawnshop staff had verified the said items as genuine.

3. The culprits are described as follows:

#### **Male accomplice**

- a. Male in his early 40s
- b. 1.6 metres tall
- c. Medium built
- d. Dark complexion with short black hair

#### **Female accomplice**

- e. Female in her early 40s
- f. 1.49 to 1.6 metres tall
- g. Plump built
- h. Dark complexion with shoulder length hair

#### **Crime prevention measures**

5. Medical practitioners are advised to adopt the following crime prevention measures:

- a) Doctors/nurses to remain vigilant when dealing with customers especially those who choose to use jewellery in lieu of cash to pay for consultation and medicine.

- b) If possible, do not accept any other form of payment other than cash and card transactions. Practitioners may cite difficulties in liquidating the jewellery.
- c) Your clinic assistant may also accompany the subject to a pawnshop or goldsmith and seek assistance from the staff to conduct tests using chemicals, filling on surface or checking the hooks to determine the authenticity of the gold items. The items can then be pawned at a pawnshop using the subject's travel documents and the money received used for payment.
- d) Do not exchange a large sum of money for the purported gold items in return for consultation given or even out of goodwill. Insist that the subject pawn the gold items at a pawnshop and make payment thereafter. Otherwise, the loss incurred could be substantial if the gold turned out to be fake.
- e) We also strongly encourage practitioners to install a comprehensive CCTV surveillance system at their premises. Your members may also contact our Crime Prevention Officers (listed below) from the Land Divisions to conduct a Crime Risk Survey at their premises.

**DIVISIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS PHONELIST**

<b>Police Division</b>	<b>CPO</b>	<b>Office Tel</b>
Central	Staff Sergeant Mohamad Faisal	6557 3317
Clementi	Snr Station Inspector Leow Ay Hong	6872 7835
Tanglin	Snr Staff Sergeant Adeline Goh	6391 4889
Ang Mo Kio	Snr Staff Sergeant Kelly Liaw	6218 1305
Bedok	Senior Staff Sergeant Winson Ng	6244 7027
Jurong	Station Inspector Loh Boon Siong	6896 6873

6. If you have any information in helping us to solve any of the cases or wish to report suspicious person(s) loitering around your neighbourhood, please contact Bukit Merah East Neighbourhood Police Centre at telephone number : 1800 – 2369999 or dial 999.

Yours Sincerely

**DSP ONG ENG BAN  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
BUKIT MERAH EAST NPC  
CENTRAL POLICE DIVISION**

**CRIME PREVENTION – A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**