

## HC SURGICAL SPECIALISTS LIMITED

Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore

Registration No. 201533429G

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### RESPONSE TO STRAITS TIMES ARTICLE OF 10 APRIL 2020

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The Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of HC Surgical Specialists Limited (the “**Company**” and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”) refers to the Straits Times article of 10 April 2020 “Surgeon loses defamation suit as judge upholds woman’s claim that he took advantage of vulnerable patients”.

The Straits Times article relates to a defamation suit (the “**Suit**”) taken out by the Group’s specialist surgeon, Dr Julian Ong, against a woman who filed a complaint against him and psychiatrist Dr Chan Heng Nieng, who does not work in the Group, to the Singapore Medical Council (“**SMC**”) that they had both colluded to take advantage of vulnerable female patients “to satisfy their immoral desires”. Dr Julian Ong’s defamation action was dismissed with costs on 3 April 2020 and he is solely responsible for the costs in connection with the Suit.

The Board would like to highlight that the Company does not approve of the matters alluded to in the Suit. Given that the Company understands that the SMC’s Complaints Committee is in the process of determining the complaint, and the facts of the matter presented in the Suit relates only to the defamation action, the Board will await the decision of the SMC’s Complaints Committee before determining if any further action will be necessitated.

In the interim, the Group has reviewed the matters alluded to in the Suit and has stressed upon Dr Julian Ong of his obligations under the SMC’s Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines.

Consequently, the Company has further reminded and stressed upon all its doctors of their obligations under the SMC’s Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines, in particular, to maintain propriety and observe appropriate boundaries in their relationship with patients as well as to maintain always a professional code of conduct.

The Board will provide further updates, as and when available, in accordance with the requirements of the Catalist Rules.

By Order of the Board

Dr. Heah Sieu Min  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
11 April 2020

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## **About HC Surgical Specialists Limited**

HC Surgical Specialists Limited (the “Company”) was incorporated on 1 September 2015 in Singapore and listed on Catalist of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited on 3 November 2016. The Company, its subsidiaries and associated company are a medical services group primarily engaged in the provision of endoscopic procedures, including gastroscopies and colonoscopies, and general surgery services with a focus on colorectal procedures across a network of 17 clinics located throughout Singapore.

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This announcement has been prepared by the Company and reviewed by the Company’s sponsor, Novus Corporate Finance Pte. Ltd. (the “Sponsor”), in compliance with Rule 226(2)(b) of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the “SGX-ST”) Listing Manual Section B: Rules of Catalist.

This announcement has not been examined or approved by the SGX-ST and the SGX-ST assumes no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, including the correctness of any of the statements or opinions made, or reports contained in this announcement.

The contact person for the Sponsor is Mr. Pong Chen Yih, Chief Operating Officer, at 9 Raffles Place, #17-05 Republic Plaza Tower 1, Singapore 048619, telephone (65) 6950 2188.