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Medical Ethics

It was just another regular day for Dr. Juni at his private clinic. Already exhausted from checking patients at the public hospital in the morning, Dr. Juni was just about to close his clinic because he was left with a handful of patients waiting for their turn to get checked by the doctor. "If only I could take a few days off and spend some time with my family for the summer vacations", is what Dr. Juni kept on saying to himself in his mind. So while he had this thing on his mind, he asked his personal attendant about the number of patients left to get checked today. Thankfully, the reply was, "just three more to go, Sir". Dr. Juni had a sigh of relief and told his attendant to let the next patient come to his room. The second-last patient was soon to follow. Lastly, there was only one patient left outside. He was a well-dressed gentleman, holding a handbag with the title of some multinational pharmaceutical company printed on it. He seemed to be very relax and it was apparent that he wanted to meet Dr. Juni for something related to that company. At last, he was called by Dr. Juni and he went to his room.

He went inside and met the doctor. He first introduced himself. He was Mr. Huni, senior manager of a multinational pharmaceutical company, and he had a 'great offer' for Dr. Juni. He opened the handbag he had with him and took out a small booklet about a new drug that his company had recently launched. He gave it to Dr. Juni and requested him to give it a full read and then to give his opinion about the new drug. Dr. Juni was already impressed by the fact that a multinational pharmaceutical company's senior manager was sitting in his room, and he knew what he exactly meant when he exclaimed that he had some 'great offer' for the doctor. Dr. Juni then told Mr. Huni that he was impressed by the drug and its related experimental results.

Mr. Huni then gave Dr. Juni another paper which was actually a business deal document. Dr. Juni gave the document a read. The document was a letter for the doctor from the CEO of the pharmaceutical company and it stated that Dr. Juni would get four return tickets for the United States for the entire month of June, and this even included the accommodation for him and his family in the US. In return, all the company wanted was that Dr. Juni prescribes their drug, instead of the other available similar drugs. Dr. Juni took some time and thought about the offer. He had a very

simple question for Mr. Huni, and that was, "how much does this drug cost"? "About double the price of the other similar drugs", was his reply. Dr. Juni without taking the cost-difference under consideration gave Mr. Huni a smile of approval. He signed the letter and Dr. Huni immediately gave him the four return tickets in return. Mr. Huni then thanked Dr. Juni and then congratulated him for his family trip that he was going to go for in the near future. He then left Dr. Juni's clinic. It was pretty late now, and Dr. Juni told his attendant to shut-down the clinic.

Dr. Juni then went to his home and told his wife and two children that they will spend their summer vacations in the US. His family was pretty excited and about the good news.

The next evening, Dr. Juni received a young patient named Buni. He was accompanied by his mother and was checked by Dr. Juni. He was diagnosed with mild fever, so Dr. Juni decided to prescribe him the same drug that Mr. Huni told him about last night. Dr. Juni did his job, and Buni and his mother left. When Buni's mother went to the nearby pharmacy and showed the prescription for her son, she was shocked to know that the drug prescribed was very expensive! She got really worried, but she could not see her child being sick. She somehow managed the expenditure and bought the drug

At one side, Dr. Juni was thinking about his trip to the US, and on the other side, Buni's mother was thinking what would she do if the expensive drug wouldn't provide her child some relief? Where would she get more money to get more amount of the same costly drug?

It is really sad to see how someone enjoys a leisurely life at the cost of someone's troubles. Had Dr. Juni not signed that letter, he would've prescribed Buni a cheaper drug, but alas, Dr. Juni disowned what he was taught regarding his medical ethics.