

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**
(Information is available about the complaints process [here](#) and about the Committee [here](#))

**Dr. Richard Goolden Perrin (CPSO #22324)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the Respondent saw the Complainant for a neurosurgical consultation. The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's care and conduct.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent:

- **checked her back by hammering away on it to the point that it hurt;**
- **pulled her gown down so that her breasts were fully exposed;**
- **cupped her breast unnecessarily; and**
- **conducted an inadequate assessment and failed to provide any type of meaningful care plan.**

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Surgical Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of November 8, 2019. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to appropriate draping and conduct when performing examinations that include sensitive body areas. The Committee also directed staff to negotiate an undertaking with the Respondent and issued advice to the Respondent to be more aware of how a patient is feeling during the examination and to communicate with the patient, especially if components of the examination may be painful.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Re: hammering the Complainant's back

- As the Respondent has on past occasions been found to be lacking in sensitivity, the Committee was concerned, based on the Complainant's descriptions of the encounter, that the Respondent was unaware that he was hurting the Complainant and that he could have been more sensitive in his approach towards the Complainant during their appointment. The Committee's concern in this case was heightened by the Respondent's relevant history of complaints regarding unprofessional communications or a lack of sensitivity. Therefore, the Committee advised the Respondent, as set out above.

Re: exposing and cupping the Complainant's breasts

- The Respondent acknowledged that he would have pulled down the gown to expose the chest and would have touched the Complainant's breast in a fashion to lift it to allow him to use his stethoscope to listen to the heart.
- In the Committee's view, the Respondent demonstrated a lack of sensitivity for the Complainant's privacy and comfort when he performed the examination. The College's policy, *Boundary Violations*, indicates that patients should be draped in such a manner that they are not fully exposed and areas that are not under examination are covered. Additionally, physicians should only assist with the adjustment or removal of clothing if the patient agrees or requests the physician to do so.
- The Committee accepted that it was reasonable for the Respondent to conduct a full physical examination of the Complainant; however, the Respondent did not do so with appropriate sensitivity and failed to adequately communicate to the Complainant the rationale and components of physical examination, which contributed to her discomfort.
- The Committee noted that its concerns would be addressed if an undertaking could be obtained from the Respondent, providing that he would engage in professional education around current standards for physical examinations, as well as boundaries. The Committee also noted that it would be appropriate to caution the Respondent with respect to this matter.

The Committee took no further action on the concern that the Respondent conducted an inadequate assessment and failed to provide any type of meaningful care plan.