

SUMMARY

DR. THOMAS PETER JASKOT (CPSO# 24242)

1. Disposition

On November 1, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required general practitioner Dr. Jaskot to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his failure to abide by the College's policy on *Block Fees and Uninsured Services*.

2. Introduction

A family member of the Patient contacted the College to express concerns about Dr. Jaskot, specifically that he charged the Patient \$50 cash at every medical appointment for services covered by OHIP, using the rationale that the Patient is elderly and requires more care than other patients. The family member also questioned which services were covered by the Patient's payments, and why the Patient was not offered a receipt for the paid fees.

Dr. Jaskot responded that the Patient is not paying \$50 at each visit, but that he did agree (was not forced) to pay \$50 on a yearly basis, as a block fee for uninsured services. He further advised that the Patient did not ask for a receipt, and that he records payments by a "dot" in the patient's chart, as he did in this case. He indicated that the fee is not mandatory, and that patients receive the same uninsured services whether they pay the block fee or not. He denied committing OHIP fraud, and explained that his reason for instituting block fees approximately two years prior was in response to increased costs and a decrease of OHIP payments. He denied telling the Patient that he was charging him the fee because he was "elderly" and "took more time."

3. Committee Process

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint. The Committee always has before it applicable legislation and regulations, along with policies that the College has developed, which reflect the College's professional expectations for physicians practising in Ontario. Current versions of these documents are available on the College's website at www.cpso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee was concerned by Dr. Jaskot's lack of proper financial recordkeeping, and noted that placing a dot on a chart was not an acceptable method of documenting that a patient had made a payment. Physicians should give patients an itemized receipt for any payments made, including block fees, whether the patients request a receipt or not, and make clear what the payment covers.

The Committee was of the view that Dr. Jaskot's billing practices were not appropriate, and contravened many aspects of the above noted policy. For example, he did not always give the Patient receipts for payments, did not provide a list of services that the block fee covered, and did not have the Patient sign an agreement with respect to block fees. The Committee was also left with the impression that there may have been a lack of clear communication with the Patient, as suggested by the Patient's lack of understanding of what he was paying for.

The Committee had before it another public complaint and a registrar's investigation (which included information from several patients), which raised similar concerns regarding Dr. Jaskot, in particular with respect to billing for block fees and uninsured services. The Committee was concerned that this information suggested a concerning pattern of inappropriate billing practices.

Based on the above, the Committee required Dr. Jaskot to attend at the College to be cautioned on his failure to abide by the College's policy on *Block Fees and Uninsured Services*.