

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

The College received information from several patients and/or their family members, raising concerns about Dr. Jaskot's billing for block fees and uninsured services, and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Jaskot's practice.

Dr. Jaskot responded that he previously provided many uninsured services free of charge, but that due to increased cost pressures, this billing structure became unfeasible and he started asking patients if they were willing to pay an optional block fee for uninsured services. The fee is \$75 per year for long-time patients and \$50 per year for new patients, which he feels is reasonable. Dr. Jaskot states that at no time did he refuse to see patients who did not pay the optional fee, and that he explained that patients would continue to receive uninsured services whether they paid or not.

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 investigation. 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 that Dr. Jaskot's practice does not comply with the College's policy on *Block Fees and Uninsured Services*. They noted that Dr. Jaskot did not have patients sign a formal agreement with respect to the block fee, and did not provide an itemized list of uninsured services to clarify what the block fee covered. The Committee was not satisfied with the explanations and rationale that Dr. Jaskot provided with respect to his charging of fees.

The College had contradictory information from Dr. Jaskot and his patients, with his patients claiming that the fees were, in fact, mandatory. The Committee was unable to reconcile these divergent accounts, but noted that it would have been inappropriate and contrary to College policy for Dr. Jaskot to tell patients that they would not be able to receive uninsured services if they did not pay a block fee. The Committee was also concerned that some patients expressed fear that if they did not pay the block fee they would not be seen.

The Committee noted that it would be inappropriate to charge patients for prescriptions, laboratory requisitions, or referrals to specialists, as such services are covered by OHIP.

While the Committee appreciated the steps Dr. Jaskot had reportedly taken to bring his practice in line with College policy, it noted that in addition to this investigation, they had before it two public complaints 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*. In addition,

the Committee requested that Dr. Jaskot provide the Committee with a written report reviewing the College's current policy on this issue, and outlining changes he has made to his practice.