

**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. Wycliffe Hobart Baird (CPSO #24565)**

**INTRODUCTION**

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Baird's narcotics prescribing. Specifically, the College learned that Dr. Baird continued to prescribe controlled drugs to a patient despite having been advised that the patient was under a separate narcotics contract with another physician. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to examine Dr. Baird's care of the patient.

**COMMITTEE'S DECISION**

A Prescribing Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of February 15, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Baird to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to the prescribing of controlled substances, particularly opioids and benzodiazepines.

**COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS**

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed an independent Assessor to review the patient chart, interview Dr. Baird, and submit a written report to the Committee. The Assessor concluded that:

- The care Dr. Baird provided to the patient did not meet the standard of practice of the profession for record keeping or safe prescribing.
- Dr. Baird's care displayed a lack of judgement in that he continued to prescribe benzodiazepines to a patient even after he was made aware of safety concerns specifically related to the patient's misuse of benzodiazepines and after stating to the pharmacist that he would no longer prescribe them.
- Dr. Baird's clinical practice is likely to expose his patients to harm or injury.

The Committee was of the view that Dr. Baird should not have prescribed any quantity of lorazepam to the patient after the pharmacist notified him of the patient's therapeutic contract with another physician and his concerns that the patient was abusing his medications. Dr. Baird failed to provide any valid reason for not complying with the pharmacist's reasonable advice not to prescribe benzodiazepines, and to dispense medications in small quantities and have all prescriptions faxed to a single pharmacy.

The Committee also agreed with the Assessor's opinion that Dr. Baird's care of the patient did not meet the standard of practice of the profession. There was no indication that Dr. Baird attempted to obtain the patient's previous records, conducted an initial history and physical examination or performed a risk assessment. In addition, he continued to prescribe benzodiazepines to a patient who was abusing his medications and was subsequently admitted to hospital with a benzodiazepine overdose. The Committee found little indication that Dr. Baird made an effort to address the patient's aberrant behaviour.

In light of the wide-ranging concerns about Dr. Baird's care of the patient, the Committee concluded that a caution in person was warranted.