

**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. Stefanos Patmanidis (CPSO #32986)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Respondent provided psychiatric care to the Patient in an outpatient mental health and addictions program.

The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the care the Respondent provided to the Patient.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent failed to provide adequate care in the management of the Patient. Specifically, the Respondent used poor judgement when he gave the Patient, who was previously diagnosed with schizophrenia, a prescription for medical marijuana.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION*

A Mental Health Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of June 11, 2019. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned in person with respect to medical record-keeping. In addition, the Committee directed staff to negotiate an undertaking with the Respondent.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Respondent indicated to the College that he had no recollection of prescribing medical cannabis to the Patient and noted that there was no record of such a prescription in the medical record. The Committee concluded that the investigative record included sufficient information to demonstrate that the Respondent wrote a prescription for medical marijuana for the Patient in October 2015.

It was concerning to the Committee that there were no notes to support the Respondent's rationale for prescribing medical marijuana to a patient with a history of substance abuse and schizophrenia, which meant that the Committee had no information to indicate that the Respondent had properly assessed the appropriateness of marijuana for the Patient.

The Panel had concerns about the Respondent's judgement in prescribing medical marijuana to the Patient and was even more concerned about the lack of recorded rationale, follow-up and monitoring after the prescription. The Respondent documented that the Patient experienced an exacerbation of his illness in June 2016 but did not document any connection between the medical marijuana prescription and the relapse of the Patient's psychotic illness.

As a result of this investigation, the Committee had concerns about the Respondent's judgement in prescribing medical marijuana to the Patient and his medical record-keeping, particularly in regard to the quality and existence of medical records. The Committee decided that it was appropriate to require the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in this matter and to accept an undertaking from the Respondent to address the issues in question.

*The Committee originally considered this matter in December 2017. On the basis of a decision by the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board, the Committee reconsidered this matter in June 2019 and issued the decision described above.