

SUMMARY

DR. BRUCE VERNE ABBEY (CPSO# 24716)

1. Disposition

On April 5, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required general practitioner Dr. Abbey to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to failure to comply with infection control standards and regarding failure to complete required continuing professional development.

The Committee also ordered Dr. Abbey to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Abbey to:

- Attend and successfully complete the next available sessions of:
 1. Public Health Ontario Reprocessing in Community Health Care Settings online course
 2. a dermatology update course acceptable to the College.
- Engage in self-directed learning by:
 1. reviewing and preparing written summaries of the College’s *Medical Records* policy and Public Health Ontario’s publication, *Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice*
 2. participating in continuing professional development through a recognized educational tracking program, and
 3. ensuring that his office staff has current knowledge of medical device reprocessing by completing a course through the Medical Device Reprocessing Association of Ontario.

- Undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six (6) months following completion of the education program.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Abbey's infection prevention and control practices and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Abbey's practice. The College conducted inspections of Dr. Abbey's practice and requested information from Dr. Abbey about changes he had made to address concerns about his infection prevention and control practices.

3. Committee Process

A General 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 noted that the College's investigation revealed considerable information documenting multiple deficiencies with respect to Dr. Abbey's infection control practices, but that Dr. Abbey was generally cooperative with the College's investigation and appeared to have made a major effort to address many of the identified shortcomings in his office.

The Committee was concerned however that Dr. Abbey was slow to respond to the College's letters asking him to detail his actions to address the remaining deficiencies in his practice and the concerns regarding lack of documentation of his continuing professional development.

The Committee also noted that Dr. Abbey had previously been the subject of complaints about office hygiene but, despite prior efforts at improvement, had obviously relapsed into concerning and unhygienic practices.

Given the repeated nature of the concerns about Dr. Abbey's infection control and lack of continuing professional development, the Committee determined that a caution and SCERP would be reasonable to address these shortcomings.