

SUMMARY

DR. JAGDEEP SINGH (CPSO# 85963)

1. Disposition

On March 23, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered family and emergency medicine physician Dr. Singh to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Singh to:

- Complete the Medical Record Keeping Course through the University of Toronto and an Emergency Medicine review course
- Engage in self-directed learning to include review and written summaries of CPSO policy (*Medical Records*) and clinical practice guidelines (acute dyspnea [shortness of breath], antiplatelet and anticoagulation therapy, sepsis)
- Practice under the guidance of a Clinical Supervisor acceptable to the College for 12 months to address the following deficiencies in his practice:
 - Approach to dyspnea in the Emergency setting; approach to acute coronary syndrome in the Emergency setting; approach to sepsis in the Emergency setting; investigation and management of other common presentations in the Emergency setting (i.e., abdominal pain)
 - Legibility of the patient record; improving all aspects of documentation, including documenting the fact and outcome of shared decision-making; documenting a differential diagnosis when appropriate.
- Undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately one year following completion of the education program.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Singh's emergency medicine practice and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Singh's practice.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector ("MI") to review a number of Dr. Singh's patient charts, interview Dr. Singh, and submit a written report.

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 MI, who reviewed 24 of Dr. Singh's ER cases and interviewed Dr. Singh, found that Dr. Singh did not meet the standard of practice in 21 of the 24 cases reviewed. In particular, the MI noted issues due to illegibility of Dr. Singh's handwriting (requiring transcripts to interpret), and found that the content of Dr. Singh's charts failed to meet the standard of practice. The MI noted that Dr. Singh's documentation was often inconsistent with the notes of nurses and residents. Despite these findings, the MI reported that Dr. Singh demonstrated reasonable knowledge and clinical judgement when interviewed.

The Committee noted that Dr. Singh provided a thoughtful response to the MI's report and that he acknowledged many of the points the MI made, while pointing out that the MI appeared to have assessed him to an unrealistic, "optimal" standard.

Given the concerns identified by the MI, and taking into consideration Dr. Singh's willingness to engage in further learning, the Committee determined that a program of remedial education would be beneficial to address the identified shortcomings in Dr. Singh's practice.