

## **SUMMARY**

### **DR. GURCHARAN SINGH SYAN (CPSO# 67196)**

#### 1. Disposition

On August 10, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required Dr. Syan (Cardiology and Internal Medicine) to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to:

- the recognition and indications for urgent and timely intervention for recurrent ischemic symptoms post-PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention); and
- the indications for ordering stress nuclear perfusion studies, and response to these test results.

#### 2. Introduction

The patient (whose medical history included a thrombophilic condition) underwent cardiac stent surgery and then saw Dr. Syan for follow-up care. The patient complained to the College that Dr. Syan failed to adequately assess, investigate and diagnose certain symptoms in the months following the surgery, including after abnormal stress testing. The patient also raised concerns that Dr. Syan’s conduct was unprofessional and he threatened to dismiss the patient from his practice. Several months after the patient developed certain symptoms while under Dr. Syan’s care, he was diagnosed in hospital with an obstructed stent.

In his response, Dr. Syan outlined his approach to the patient’s care, and explained his rationale for using medical management and how certain testing, including ECGs and echocardiograms, along with the patient’s symptoms, did not indicate that angiography was necessary at the time. He denied being rude to the patient and said he did not dismiss the patient from his practice, but rather told the patient he could ask his family doctor to change his cardiologist if he needed a second opinion.

#### 3. Committee Process

An Internal Medicine Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint. 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](http://www.cpso.on.ca), under the heading "Policies & Publications."

#### 4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee was satisfied there was no information before it to support that Dr. Syan's communications with the patient were inappropriate, nor was there information to indicate Dr. Syan had dismissed the patient from his practice. The Committee took no further action on both these areas of concern.

However, the Committee expressed concerns about Dr. Syan's clinical approach to this case. It noted that given the patient's history and the timing post-PCI, Dr. Syan should have considered and mentioned in his records that stent stenosis was a real possibility, particularly in a patient who had initially been symptom-free and had a thrombophilic condition (and was therefore at a higher risk of developing clots). Dr. Syan should also have ordered stress test or nuclear imaging more expeditiously. The Committee noted that echocardiograms are of little value in this clinical situation. The Committee noted that Dr. Syan's literature review states that if a patient develops certain symptoms after stenting, stress test or nuclear imaging is warranted.

The Committee felt Dr. Syan would benefit from direct conversation with members of the Committee about this case, and decided to require him to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to the clinical concerns it had identified in this matter.