

SUMMARY

DR. RONNIE YU KIT LO (CPSO# 62519)

1. Disposition

On August 2, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required Dr. Lo (General Practice) to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to deficient opioid prescribing.

The Committee also accepted an undertaking from Dr. Lo, dated July 27, 2017.

2. Introduction

The College received information from the Narcotics Monitoring System (“NMS”) raising concerns about Dr. Lo’s narcotics prescribing and subsequently the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators to conduct a review of Dr. Lo’s practice.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector (“MI”) to review a number of Dr. Lo’s patient charts, interview Dr. Lo and submit a written report to the Committee.

A Panel of the Committee (consisting of physician and public members) constituted to consider cases that include narcotics prescribing issues 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 considered the report of the MI, who concluded that Dr. Lo failed to meet the standard of practice in a majority of the charts reviewed and demonstrated a lack of knowledge, skill and judgement in a large number of areas, and that his clinical practice, behaviour or conduct exposed or was likely to expose his patients to harm or injury in a majority of the charts reviewed. The Committee also considered Dr. Lo’s response to the MI’s report, where Dr. Lo described changes to his narcotics prescribing practice and education he has taken or will take to improve his narcotics prescribing and medical record-keeping.

As a result of this investigation, the Committee had serious concerns about Dr. Lo’s narcotics prescribing. The Committee noted that its concerns would be satisfied, in part, if an undertaking could be obtained from Dr. Lo to address the issues in question. Such an undertaking was obtained, and will be posted on the public register while it remains in effect. The Committee was satisfied that the terms of the undertaking (which include close, phased supervision, professional education and reassessment) are important measures to ensure that Dr. Lo’s ongoing and future narcotics prescribing is safe and effective for patients. The Committee noted that the supervision, which was initially set at a high level, was an important protection for the public (this to address concerns the MI identified about risks of diversion of narcotics) and for Dr. Lo’s patients, in that it allowed Dr. Lo’s patients receiving narcotics to continue to do so in a safe context.

However, the Committee was concerned by the MI’s conclusions. The Committee was of the view that despite the important steps Dr. Lo has made and is making to improve his practice, the extent of Dr. Lo’s deficiencies surrounding opiates prescribing was such that the Committee determined that it was also appropriate to require him to attend before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned.