

**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. Celeste Thirlwell (CPSO #76629)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The College received information raising concerns about the Respondent's practice, particularly regarding cannabis prescribing. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of the Respondent's practice.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of March 26, 2026. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to cannabis prescribing and adherence to the College policies, *Medical Records Documentation*, *Medical Records Management*, *Virtual Care* and *Third Party Medical Reports*.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed an independent Assessor to review a number of the Respondent's patient charts, interview the Respondent, and submit a written report to the Committee. The Assessor opined in his report that:

- The Respondent's care fell below the standard of care in all 49 charts reviewed. All charts had gaps that would be necessary to meet the standard of care. The Respondent's documentation did not meet the requirements of the *Medical Records Documentation* policy or the *Third Party Medical Reports* policy.
- The Respondent's care displayed a lack of knowledge, skill and judgement in all 49 charts reviewed, including that the Respondent demonstrated a lack of clinical knowledge of medical cannabis, a lack of skill in documenting the necessary components required to meet the standard of care, and a lack of judgement in choosing to over-rely on the cannabis clinic content without ensuring a thorough understanding of the patient's condition.
- There was a potential exposure to harm to the patients in all 49 charts reviewed. This included risk of harm due to the Respondent's support for dramatic increases in the daily cannabis quota over short periods, or inadequate review of

the risks of medical cannabinoids in specific health conditions, such as seizure disorder, heart disease or bipolar disorder.

- The Respondent's approach to conducting phone-only independent medical examinations was concerning as there was no documented consideration of alternatives that would be in the patient's best interest, as required by the College's *Virtual Care* policy.
- The Respondent's approach did not comply with the College's *Third Party Medical Reports* policy, as some sections of her reports were not objective and unbiased. Instead, in all 49 charts reviewed, the Assessor found that the Respondent strongly supported maintaining or increasing medical cannabis use.

Upon consideration of the available information, including the Assessor report, the Committee had concerns about the Respondent's care in regard to cannabis prescribing and compliance with College policies. The Committee decided to require the Respondent to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned in this regard.

The Committee considered a more significant disposition in this matter, including referral to the Ontario Physicians and Surgeons Discipline Tribunal, and might have chosen this option if the Respondent's certificate of registration had not already been revoked.

The Committee also noted that the concerns identified in the investigation would be relevant to any future consideration of the Respondent's suitability to practise. Should the Respondent apply for reinstatement of her certificate of registration, the issues raised in this investigation will be considered in all subsequent registration-related proceedings.