

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**

Information about the complaints process and the Committee is available at:
<https://www.cpso.on.ca/Public/Services/Complaints>

**Dr. Marko Duic (CPSO #50470)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's care and conduct. In January 2018, the Complainant brought her minor daughter, the Patient, to the emergency department (ED) regarding a body rash and fever.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent:

- **failed to perform a complete and thorough assessment of the Patient when she presented to the ED with her parents for fever, body rash and swelling of the extremities**
- **prescribed morphine (0.5-0.75 mg every 4 hours) with the intention of discharging the Patient from the ED without a diagnosis**
- **spoke in a rude and sarcastic manner when the Complainant enquired what the cause of her daughter's body rash and leg swelling could be, whether the Respondent would examine her daughter's ears and legs, and how long the rash would take to clear up**
- **spoke in a rude and sarcastic manner, advising that if she wanted another doctor to tell her what he had already told her then she could have a second opinion**

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of December 20, 2018. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to the overall management of the Patient with urticaria in the ED. The Committee also requested that the Respondent provided a written report with respect to the inappropriate prescribing of morphine, lack of assessment regarding hydration, and inappropriate assessment and management of urticaria.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

As part of this investigation, the Committee retained an independent opinion provider (IO provider) who specializes in emergency medicine. The IO provider opined that the overall care provided by the Respondent met the standard of practice in the end, as the Patient was referred to the on-call pediatrician who ultimately admitted the Patient.

- **Concern regarding the Respondent's assessment of the Patient**

Based on its review of the record, the Committee was not satisfied that the Respondent documented a complete and thorough assessment of the Patient. The notes appeared minimal, with no comment on the general appearance of the Patient or her hydration status. The IO provider's findings supported this concern, as the IO provider indicated that the Respondent's documentation appeared limited and lacked an assessment of the Patient's hydration.

- **Concern regarding the Respondent prescribing morphine to the Patient**

In the Committee's view, there was no indication for the Respondent to prescribe morphine to the Patient in the circumstances. Physicians may use morphine in careful doses in pediatric patients; however, it is typically used for more severe pain, such as post-operative or trauma pain, rather than in a patient presenting with a rash.

The IO provider noted that it was not in keeping with standard practice to treat symptoms of viral rash or urticaria with an outpatient narcotic prescription. In response, the Respondent indicated that he prescribed morphine due to the Complainant's insistence and to pacify her concerns. In the Committee's view, this was not an appropriate reason to write a prescription for morphine. Additionally, the Respondent made a referral for a pediatric assessment that day, such that the prescription would not be necessary.

The Committee took no further action on the concerns respecting to the Respondent speaking in a rude and sarcastic manner towards the Complainant.