

**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. Raymond Howard Rupert (CPSO #25597)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Rupert's prescribing and telemedicine practices. Specifically, one of Dr. Rupert's patients contacted the College and said that he was paying a monthly fee to Dr. Rupert, and in return was being prescribed medication (including Valium and Percocet) with no in-person assessment (Dr. Rupert used Skype). The patient did not want to be involved in the complaints process. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Rupert's practice.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of June 13, 2019. The Committee accepted a signed undertaking from Dr. Rupert, and also required Dr. Rupert to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to failing to comply with the College's *Medical Records, Delegation of Controlled Acts, Telemedicine, and Ensuring Competence: Changing Scope of Practice and/or Re-entering Practice* policies, and on failing to meet the standard of practice, demonstrating a lack of knowledge and judgment, and potentially exposing patients to harm.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

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

- Did not meet the standard of care, as he did not assess patients, or document a rationale for providing ongoing prescriptions, and lacked appropriate documentation and proper communication with regards to terminating or attempting to terminate the physician-patient relationship.
- Lacked knowledge and judgment by prescribing Percocet to a patient with a known opioid use disorder without adequate documentation.
- Continued to display a lack of judgment by continuing to prescribe substances with significant abuse potential to patients with known substance use disorders without appropriate monitoring, oversight, or documentation.

- Exposed patients to a moderate risk of harm by prescribing and not closely monitoring his prescriptions for high-risk substances to high-risk patients with known substance use disorders. As a result, he put his patients at an increased risk of injury or death.

The Committee considered the following in reaching its decision:

- The Committee agreed with the Assessor that Dr. Rupert did not meet the standard of care in his prescribing practices, that he lacked knowledge and judgment, and that his care placed patients at a risk of harm.
- Dr. Rupert stated that he is not actually providing medical care, but rather is facilitating care. However, given that he was providing prescriptions for potent medications to patients, the Committee was of the view that he was providing medical care.
- Dr. Rupert's medical records were poor, and the Committee was concerned about how he is using telemedicine to provide care.
- As a result of this investigation, the Committee had concerns about Dr. Rupert's prescribing practices, telemedicine use, medical records, and his approach to delivering medical services. In the Committee's view, a signed undertaking and requiring Dr. Rupert to attend the College to be cautioned was an appropriate resolution of this matter.