

**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

In December 2014, the College received information from a pharmacist regarding concerns about a travel vaccination clinic. Specifically, the pharmacist had concerns regarding delegated acts and vaccine cold chain processes. Dr. Rupert was the Medical Director of the clinic.

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 an undertaking signed by Dr. Rupert, and 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 opined that:

- Dr. Rupert did not meet the standard of care in 18 of 27 charts, displayed a lack of knowledge in 18 charts, and a lack of judgment in 19 charts, and exposed or was likely to expose one of the patients to a risk of harm or injury.
- "Dr. Rupert clearly had very little knowledge of the various components of Travel Medicine during the time when he was involved in offering advice and counselling in this discipline. He relied on others who also did not have a background in Travel Medicine to do research in the area on his behalf but did not fully verify their research before signing off on the medical directives. Medications and immunizations were given under his name for patients with whom he admits he did not have any contact, nor did

he verify after the fact that what was performed by those to whom he delegated the acts had been done in a satisfactory manner. He appears not to have been involved at all in the counselling components of travel medicine for such things as food and water precautions, traveller's diarrhea, insect-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue or altitude issues. Rather, he relied on the pharmacists and nurses, some of whom did have training in Travel Medicine, to do this counselling. After reviewing the material provided to me it is my opinion that Dr. Rupert is and was unqualified to practice in the field of Travel Medicine.”

The Committee’s agreed with the Assessor’s report, and had concerns about Dr. Rupert’s lack of education in the field of travel medicine, his use of telemedicine, his prescribing practices, and his medical record-keeping. As a result, the Committee found that an appropriate resolution would be to accept an undertaking signed by Dr. Rupert, and to require him to attend the College to be cautioned on this matter.