

SUMMARY

Dr. Dean Carey Leduc (CPSO# 63565)

1. Disposition

On September 6, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered family medicine practitioner Dr. Leduc to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Leduc to:

- attend and successfully complete the University of Toronto Program in Safe Opioid Prescribing
- engage in self-directed learning in relation to his prescribing practices
- practice under a clinical supervisor for a period of 6 months, and
- undergo a reassessment of his practice following the completion of the education program.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Leduc’s prescribing practices and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Leduc’s practice. As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector (MI) to review a number of Dr. Leduc’s patient charts, interview Dr. Leduc, and submit a written report. The MI noted the following regarding Dr. Leduc’s practice before Dr. Leduc made changes to his practice in early 2014:

- Dr. Leduc’s clinical practice, behaviour or conduct was likely to expose patients to harm or injury in 5 of the 10 files reviewed.
- Dr. Leduc did not meet the standard of practice in 6 of the 10 files reviewed.
- In 7 of the 10 files reviewed, Dr. Leduc displayed a lack of skill, knowledge or judgement, including with respect including with respect to his dosing of narcotics, and his management of patients on narcotics and other medications, including patients on a combination of medications.

Dr. Leduc addressed the issues the MI identified. He indicated that he took the expressed concerns to heart and that he believed his practice had greatly improved since 2014.

3. Committee Process

A General Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, 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 was pleased to note that Dr. Leduc has made a number of changes to his practice since early 2014 (such as completing prescribing courses and implementing narcotic prescribing guidelines) which appear to have had a positive impact on his patient care. Nevertheless, they remained concerned about the significant deficiencies identified in Dr. Leduc's pre-2014 prescribing practices, as outlined above.

The Committee noted that although the MI opined that Dr. Leduc's current practice meets the standard and is not likely to expose patients to harm or injury, given the significant and troubling deficiencies identified pre-early 2014, they felt the only way to ensure public protection was to require Dr. Leduc to undergo remediation (including to practice under a clinical supervisor) for a period of time, in order to determine if his practice has sufficiently improved.

The Committee was of the view that Dr. Leduc's response to this investigation demonstrated that he had insight into his errors and previous deficiencies, and that he has already engaged in a number of educative steps to try to address his deficiencies, and that there was no reason to believe that he would not benefit from further education to improve his practice.