

SUMMARY

DR. VIET CUONG DAO (CPSO #91036)

1. Disposition

On June 7, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required family physician Dr. Dao to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to inappropriate narcotics prescribing. In addition, the Committee accepted a signed undertaking from Dr. Dao.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Dao's narcotics prescribing and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Dao's practice.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector to review a number of Dr. Dao's patient charts, interview Dr. Dao, and submit a written report to the Committee.

A Prescribing 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 MI reviewed 16 of Dr. Dao's medical records and concluded that the patient care in 14 of

the 16 charts failed to meet the standard of care. In addition, the MI opined that Dr. Dao's care displayed a lack of skill, knowledge and judgment in 14 of the 16 charts reviewed, including that:

- Dr. Dao failed to recognize "red flag" situations and frequently gave the patient the benefit of the doubt with regard to reports of lost and stolen medications, requests for early refills, and patient self-escalation of doses
- Where patients were identified with addiction issues, Dr. Dao did not manage the addiction and continued to prescribe the opioid of choice, frequently without tightening his prescribing limitations
- Dr. Dao prescribed high dose opioids concurrently with benzodiazepines and other sedating medications.

The MI was of the opinion that Dr. Dao's clinical practice, behaviour or conduct exposed patients to harm or injury.

As a result of the investigation, the Committee had significant concerns about Dr. Dao's narcotics prescribing practice. Dr. Dao expressed his intention to take necessary steps to improve his practice, pursuant to an undertaking. The College and Dr. Dao agreed upon an undertaking that addresses the identified concerns. Accordingly, the Committee accepted Dr. Dao's undertaking, which provides that Dr. Dao will practice under the guidance of a clinical supervisor acceptable to the College, complete specified professional education, and undergo a reassessment of his practice approximately six months after completion of the period of supervision.

In addition to accepting Dr. Dao's undertaking, the Committee determined that the appropriate disposition was to require Dr. Dao to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to inappropriate narcotics prescribing as described in the MI report.