

SUMMARY

DR. DEBESH BASU (CPSO# 75252)

1. Disposition

On November 9, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required family physician Dr. Basu to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his professionalism and communications.

In addition, the panel ordered Dr. Basu to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Basu to:

- Successfully complete one-to-one instruction relating to coaching in communications.

2. Introduction

A family member of the patient complained to the College that Dr. Basu failed to reviewing the patient’s drug sensitivities, documented pejorative remarks in the hospital’s patient summary, and behaved in an unprofessional manner towards the patient and the family on two different occasions and in particular that he was rude and insensitive in assessing the patient and when explaining DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) orders.

Dr. Basu responded that he was in fact concerned for the patient and took time to provide detailed explanations. He denied being rude or insensitive. He maintained that he did consider the patient’s drug sensitivities. He defended his documentation in the record as being an accurate reflection of the patient’s history.

3. Committee Process

A panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint. 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 referred to College policy on decision-making for the end of life, which notes the importance of advance care planning and the physician's role in such discussions.

The Committee did not have concerns about Dr. Basu's clinical care regarding consideration of drug sensitivities or with respect to his documentation in the hospital record. The Committee did have significant concerns about Dr. Basu's interactions with the patient and the family when discussing the DNR order. The Committee felt that Dr. Basu's response showed little insight into the behaviour that led to the complaint. The Committee noted that Dr. Basu acknowledged explaining the types of aggressive resuscitation measures that would be associated with a full code in the terms the patient and family reported. The Committee's concern about Dr. Basu was elevated given that it also considered another matter that concerned his professionalism at the same meeting.

Given the identified shortcomings in Dr. Basu's professionalism and communications, the Committee felt that remediation in this aspect of his practice would be useful and for this reason imposed a SCERP.