

## **SUMMARY**

### **DR. JAYANT SHANKERPRASAD BHATT (CPSO #26042)**

#### **1. Disposition**

On December 3, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required internist Dr. Bhatt to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to professionalism. The Committee also decided to accept Dr. Bhatt's signed undertaking.

#### **2. Introduction**

The patient complained to the College that Dr. Bhatt acted in an unprofessional manner during an appointment. The patient indicated that Dr. Bhatt indicated to her that she would not last in her job if she did not lose weight and join a gym, ridiculed her for her statement that she did not have diabetes, and told her she did not have a sexually transmitted infection that she had not been tested for.

Dr. Bhatt responded that he relied on the shared experience he and the patient had of working in an intensive care unit and behaved the way he would with a colleague, sharing jokes and acting informally. He acknowledged that he misunderstood the patient's comment regarding her family physician having tested her for diabetes, with negative results. He stated that, when he commented that the Complainant had tested negative for the sexually transmitted infection, he did not realize that he was reading the test result of another patient, whose laboratory report had erroneously been placed in the patient's file.

#### **3. Committee Process**

An Internal Medicine 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](http://www.cpso.on.ca), under the heading "Policies & Publications."

#### **4. Committee's Analysis**

Dr. Bhatt has a significant history with the College of disruptive, unprofessional and inappropriate conduct with women. Following consideration of a matter involving Dr. Bhatt's unprofessional conduct and behaviour, the Discipline Committee ordered that terms, conditions and limitations be placed on his certificate of registration with the College, effective April 4, 2016.

In light of Dr. Bhatt's history with the College and the recent referral to the Discipline Committee for communication issues, the Committee was troubled by his communication in this matter, which we consider to be unprofessional and inappropriate.

The Committee was not reassured by Dr. Bhatt's response to the complaint. He did not deny making rude and inappropriate comments to the patient but attempted to explain his comments as attempts at humour and an inappropriate effort to be collegial with a patient.

Dr. Bhatt also acknowledged failing to maintain patient confidentiality by disclosing another patient's medical information to the patient.

In light of these concerns, the Committee decided to seek an undertaking from Dr. Bhatt and require him to attend at the College to be cautioned about professionalism.