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. Mahmud Kara (CPSO #59474)
(the Respondent)

INTRODUCTION

The Respondent carried out a belt lipectomy, fleur-de-lis, and abdominal liposuction on the Patient in February 2021. The Patient expressed dissatisfaction with the results of her procedure and the Respondent offered to do a complimentary revision procedure in the fall of 2021.

The Respondent took a leave of absence and then subsequently closed his practices in the summer of 2021 and the revision surgery did not occur.

The Patient contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's care and conduct.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of November 20, 2024. The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a Panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his failure to:

- document the plan of care discussion, including surgical options and the rationale for the proposed surgery; and,

- conduct appropriate follow-up care and ensure continuity of care when closing a practice.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Recommended and performed a belt lipectomy, fleur-de-lis, and liposuction on the same surgical date and did not inform the Patient that doing that many procedures at the same time would have blood flow concerns
- and -
Recommended a belt lipectomy even though the Patient did not ask for this and did not inform the Patient that it should be done as a separate surgery

As part of this investigation, the Committee retained an independent Assessor who specializes in plastic surgery. The Assessor noted that the only surgical options documented in the medical record were nonsurgical management, or to have the

extensive, costly procedure that the Patient received. There is no evidence in the medical record that less involved options, such as a regular abdominoplasty, were discussed. The lack of documentation about different treatment options in the Patient's medical record, combined with her concerns about the procedure that was performed, suggests either a lack of judgment in advising the patient about her treatment options, or lack of knowledge in medical record charting requirements.

The Committee concurred with the Assessor's opinion. While the Respondent advised the Committee that he and staff member discussed the various treatment options with the Patient and that the consented to procedure best addressed the Patient's concerns. However, there was no documentation to support this. As such, the Committee determined that it was appropriate to caution the Respondent in person, with respect to his failure to document the plan of care discussion.

Inappropriately closed his practice in the Fall of 2021 after suggesting the Patient's revision surgery take place during that time

The Assessor also concluded that the standard of practice of the profession was not met when the Patient was left without any assistance when the Respondent suddenly closed his practice without taking adequate steps to ensure the Patient's concerns were addressed and without assisting the Patient in getting further treatment in his absence. This behaviour also displayed a lack of knowledge of professional obligations during a practice closure.

While the Committee acknowledged the Respondent's explanation and reflection, the Committee concurred with the Assessor's view and decided to caution the Respondent regarding this aspect of his care and conduct.

In coming to the above dispositions, the Committee considered that the Respondent's significant history of complaints with the College which also raised concerns about his documentation, pre-operative care, and improper practice closure. The Committee was satisfied that in the circumstances, a caution in person for this matter would serve to protect the public interest.

This is a summary of the Committee's decision as it relates to the Caution disposition.