

**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. Randall James William Webster (CPSO #26343)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Complainant was referred to the Respondent, a gastroenterologist, for assessment of irritable bowel syndrome. The Respondent saw the Complainant on a single occasion. The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concern about the Respondent's conduct.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that during an appointment for IBS, the Respondent sexually assaulted her.

The Complainant describes an examination in which the Respondent pulled down her shorts and forcibly continued an examination despite her protests for him to stop. The Complainant is further concerned by the Respondent's failure to: allow her boyfriend to be present, leave the room while she changed, or provide her with adequate information about the examination.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of May 8 and August 22, 2019. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to inappropriate behaviour during an intimate patient examination (in particular, poor communication and lack of sensitivity towards the patient). The Committee also accepted a signed undertaking from the Respondent, which is posted on the College's public register.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Committee noted the following in reaching its decision:

- The allegation of sexual abuse during an assessment of gastrointestinal symptoms and sigmoidoscopy, if true, is extremely serious. However, other factors indicate a referral to the Discipline Committee was not warranted. These factors include: the Respondent's denial that there was a sexual component to the examination; the examination as documented was clinically indicated for assessment of Complainant's symptoms of

irritable bowel syndrome; the Respondent has no history of complaints similar in nature to the allegations made by the Complainant. The Committee also noted the Respondent's apology for any misunderstanding regarding the way the examination was conducted and for the distress and confusion this caused.

- Based on the information in the investigative record, the Committee did have significant concerns about the Respondent's behaviour during an intimate patient examination, and, in particular, his poor communication and lack of sensitivity towards the Complainant in failing to offer a drape or gown to the patient and performing a sigmoidoscopy with insufficient explanation. On this basis, the Committee determined that it was appropriate to caution the Respondent.