

SUMMARY

DR. ELIZABETH GALANTER (CPSO# 61908)

1. Disposition

On October 3, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required paediatrician Dr. Galanter to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to ordering tests for patients' family members and billing the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for adults and for counselling not performed. The Committee also noted that Dr. Galanter had resigned her certificate of registration and accepted an undertaking from Dr. Galanter, which terms include never to apply or reapply to practice medicine in Ontario or any other jurisdiction, and the Committee directed its concerns about Dr. Galanter's billing to the General Manager of OHIP.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Galanter's OHIP billings and conduct, including that she was swiping the health cards of her paediatric patients' family members and sending them for vitamin D level testing and other blood work. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Galanter's practice related to these concerns.

Dr. Galanter responded that she has received training in nutrition. She explained that it appeared to her that many of her patients' issues were a reflection of their home environment, suggesting to her there was a connection between their family lives, nutrition and health. She said she began meeting with her patients' families and other older family members and provided counselling and guidance, which accounts for some of her OHIP billing information.

3. Committee Process

A General 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 Committee was troubled by information gathered in this investigation suggesting Dr. Galanter has been billing OHIP for patients' family members whom she was not treating, and the claim (expressed in the originating correspondence in this matter) that sometimes the family members were often not even in the office when she billed. The Committee noted that Dr. Galanter has no charts for some of these individual for whom she billed OHIP.

The Committee observed that Dr. Galanter was ordering tests that were not useful, such as vitamin D levels, which is a further drain on the public system. The Committee did not accept as reasonable Dr. Galanter's justification or explanations for such testing. The Committee also regarded the training in nutrition that Dr. Galanter described as having as negligible.

The Committee concluded that it was appropriate to require Dr. Galanter to attend at the College to be cautioned with respect to these concerns.

Further, noting its concerns from this case along with those raised in a public complaint the Committee considered at the same time, and Dr. Galanter's resignation of her certificate of registration, the Committee also accepted an undertaking from Dr. Galanter, which terms include that she never apply or re-apply for registration as a physician in Ontario or any other jurisdiction, she deactivate her OHIP billing number, and she acknowledge that she was the

subject of College investigations into her general medicine practice. The Committee stated that given Dr. Galanter's undertaking, its remaining concerns about public protection were satisfied.

Finally, given the Committee had concerns about Dr. Galanter's OHIP billings, it directed such information to the General Manager of OHIP.