

**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. Alireza Shakib (CPSO #92200)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

An Ontario Ministry reported concerns to the College regarding the Respondent's completion of Special Diet Allowance (SDA) application forms, including:

- disproportionately large number of SDA forms approved per year compared to other physicians;
- abnormally high prevalence rate of approved medical conditions compared to average prevalence;
- common conditions within families; and
- unreasonable geographic dispersion of clients.

The Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators under Section 75(1)(a) of the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, being schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. Under this appointment, an independent assessor (the Assessor) was retained to review a selection of the Respondent's patient charts, associated billing reports, and interview the Respondent.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

The Committee considered this matter at its meeting of April 13, 2026.

The Committee required the Respondent to appear before a Panel of the Committee to be cautioned to ensure his compliance with appropriate billing practices and accurate medical record-keeping in support of billing.

The Committee also accepted an undertaking from the Respondent.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Respondent stated that he was seeing many refugee patients who needed SDA forms completed. Many of these patients did not have a family physician and faced significant language barriers. He recognized that it was unusual for multiple family members to report identical food intolerances but believed that was still possible.

The Assessor found that almost all of the charts reviewed included SDA forms, documented using a template, which resulted in the same information recorded for

every patient. The Assessor concluded that a competent practitioner in the same field would have questioned the accuracy of this information, particularly where multiple family members reported identical food intolerances. The Respondent's rate of SDA claims was significantly higher than expected compared to both the SDA population and the general population. A competent practitioner in the same field would have recognized this pattern and taken steps to increase the threshold for confirming such intolerances.

The Committee accepted the Assessor's conclusions and noted significant concerns about the Respondent's completion of SDA forms, the corresponding billing practices and medical record keeping. While the Committee acknowledges the demands of a busy family medicine practice, physicians must ensure that their practices safeguard the appropriate use of publicly funded health care and social assistance programs and resources in Ontario.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in addition to accepting the Respondent's undertaking, the Committee required the Respondent to appear before a Panel of the Committee to be cautioned as outlined above.

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