

SUMMARY

DR. TSAI HSING YU (CPSO# 53778)

1. Disposition

On November 1, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required general practitioner Dr. Yu to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to his failure to properly assess patients and to arrive at evidence-based treatment plans.

The Committee also required Dr. Yu to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (SCERP). The SCERP requires Dr. Yu to:

- Attend and successfully complete the next available session of the following courses:
 - A Medical Record Keeping course through a course provider indicated by the College
 - CMPA (Canadian Medical Protective Association) e-Learning Modules—Documentation I and Documentation II
- Engage in self-directed learning by reviewing and preparing a written summary of the College's *Medical Records* policy and relevant articles on the assessment and management of gluten enteropathy and lactose intolerance
- Undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six months following his completion of the remediation outlined above.

2. Introduction

The patient complained to the College that Dr. Yu diagnosed him as being gluten intolerant based solely on the “texture” of his skin. The patient noted that later testing provided this diagnosis to be incorrect.

Dr. Yu responded by acknowledging that he had made the diagnosis as the patient stated. He indicated that his dietary recommendations were made in the patient's best interests.

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 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, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee noted that Dr. Yu's management and recommendations for the patient were concerning, especially because there was no evidence of any clinical need for the recommendations nor any support for Dr. Yu's plan of care related to a gluten- and lactose-free diet. The Committee stated it is inappropriate for a physician to advise a patient to make drastic dietary changes without proper testing and investigation.

The Committee's concern about Dr. Yu's care of the patient was compounded by the poor, illegible chart. The shortcomings in Dr. Yu's charting concerned the Committee even more because he has twice in the past taken the Medical Record Keeping course through the University of Toronto. The Committee commented that he had obviously not retained or applied appropriate knowledge of current record-keeping expectations (as outlined for all physicians in the College's policy on medical records). The Committee noted that the substandard nature of Dr. Yu's records meant it was difficult to fully assess the quality of his clinical care beyond noting his poor judgement in the dietary recommendations he made in the patient's case.

The Committee also remarked on Dr. Yu's extensive history of prior complaints to the College, some of which have resulted in significant outcomes. *see comment on other summary