

SUMMARY

DR. MAXIMOUS YOUSSEF MEIKAE ABDEL-MALEK (CPSO# 75282)

1. Disposition

On February 15, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) ordered family physician Dr. Abdel-Malek to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (SCERP). The SCERP requires Dr. Abdel-Malek to:

- Complete the Medical Record-Keeping Course through the University of Toronto
- Complete the eLearning module *Documentation II: Principles of Medical Record Keeping* through the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA)
- Review the College's *Medical Records* policy and complete a written review of up to 2,000 words, which references the current standards of practice, how they are applicable to his situation, as well as how he has made, or plans to make, changes to his practice
- Undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six months after the completion of the program.

The Committee also advised Dr. Abdel-Malek to document discussions regarding side effects and to have an in-depth discussion with patients about those side effects.

2. Introduction

A patient complained to the College that Dr. Abdel-Malek prescribed a medication without sending the patient for a reassessment by a psychiatrist or psychologist, and did not provide the patient with information regarding the medication's side effects.

Dr. Abdel-Malek responded that the patient requested to continue that specific medication during her first visit, and that the patient was unwilling to change the medication. He said that the patient did not tell him that she was experiencing any side effects. He said he spoke with

the patient about seeing a psychiatrist, but the patient did not feel the need for a referral. Dr. Abdel-Malek indicated that he had made improvements to his medical records since the patient's visits.

3. Committee Process

A Family Practice 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 found that Dr. Abdel-Malek did appropriately try to refer the patient to a psychiatrist and continued the medication at the patient's request, as this was documented in the medical record. However, there was no documentation that Dr. Abdel-Malek discussed the side effects of the medication. As a result, the Committee advised him to discuss the side effects of medication and document that discussion in the medical record.

In their review of the materials, the Committee noted that the patient's medical history in the record was incomplete, and that physical examinations were either not performed or incompletely documented. Further, the Committee noted that vaccinations appeared to be given without a recorded rationale. This indicated that Dr. Abdel-Malek's medical record keeping was not sufficient.

Since the medical records for this patient did not comply with the College's *Medical Records* policy in regards to their fulsomeness and detail, the Committee felt Dr. Abdel-Malek would benefit from a SCERP in regards to his medical record keeping.