

SUMMARY

DR. JAMES SCOTT BRADLEY MARTIN (CPSO# 29320)

1. Disposition

On June 10, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Martin to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Martin to:

- Attend and successfully complete the next available session of an appropriate course through WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health) focusing on psychological and medical aspects of transgender care
- Undertake self-directed learning and prepare a report around the need for psychiatric/psychological testing prior to initiating transgender treatment, appropriate baseline work-up, and ongoing care.
- Engage in focused educational sessions, in person, with a clinical supervisor in the following topics: management of patients who require transgender care; and the safe and effective prescribing of medication and provision of complete care, including psychiatric/psychological testing prior to treatment.

2. Introduction

The College received a public complaint about Dr. Martin’s care of a patient receiving transgender care. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Martin’s practice with respect to his care of transgender patients and of patients receiving hormone replacement therapy.

Dr. Martin provided a response, describing changes he has implemented in his practice to better screen and safeguard patients, both those undergoing transgender care and those receiving hormone replacement therapy.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed two Medical Inspectors to review a number of Dr. Martin's patient charts, interview Dr. Marin, and submit written reports.

An Obstetrical 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 accepted that, based on the review of the Medical Inspector who reviewed Dr. Martin's hormone replacement therapy practice, Dr. Martin's care was in keeping with accepted standards.

The Committee noted that the Medical Inspector who reviewed Dr. Martin's care of transgender patients had an overall positive final assessment of Dr. Martin's practice. The Medical Inspector noted that in the interim between the initial and final reviews, Dr. Martin had undertaken many initiatives to improve his practice. Despite the Medical Inspector's positive review, the Committee remained concerned about Dr. Martin's practice given that the Medical Inspector's final assessment of Dr. Martin's practice was based on a review of only three charts, while the initial review, which found that Dr. Martin's care fell below the standard in 13 of 13 charts reviewed, was based upon a much larger sample size.

The Committee also took into account Dr. Martin's significant and concerning history with the College. While acknowledging the steps Dr. Martin has taken to upgrade and improve his practice, the Committee nonetheless remained concerned and for this reason required that Dr. Martin complete the SCERP as outline above.