

## **SUMMARY**

### **DR. EUGENIE ULRICA TJAN (CPSO #63892)**

#### **1. Disposition**

On July 11, 2018, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required family physician Dr. Tjan to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to lack of knowledge, skill and judgement in the provision of medical assistance in dying (MAID) and for failing to educate and prepare herself in advance of providing MAID.

The Committee also accepted two signed undertakings from Dr. Tjan.

#### **2. Introduction**

The Committee received information raising concerns about Dr. Tjan's MAID practice and subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Tjan's practice.

Dr. Tjan acknowledged that there were many things that she could have done differently to improve the outcome in the MAID case in question. She stated that she relied on her 23 years of palliative care experience.

#### **3. Committee Process**

As part of the investigation into the public complaint that gave rise to this matter, the Committee retained an Independent Opinion provider (IO provider) who is a family medicine specialist with a practice focus in palliative care. The IO provider reviewed the entire written investigative record in the public complaint and submitted a written report to the Committee.

A 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](http://www.cpso.on.ca), under the heading "Policies & Publications."

#### **4. Committee's Analysis**

The IO provider in the public complaint opined that Dr. Tjan's care of the patient did not meet the standard of practice and showed a lack of skill, knowledge and judgement. The IO provider concluded that if Dr. Tjan continued to perform MAID without further training and without accessing some mentoring from colleagues with experience, she was at risk of harming patients and should not perform the procedure. The IO provider was of the view that Dr. Tjan continued to underestimate the magnitude of providing medically-assisted death and the responsibility attached.

The Committee agreed with the IO provider's conclusions that Dr. Tjan's care fell below standard in the case in question, and that she showed deficiencies in knowledge, skill and judgement. The Committee shared the IO provider's concerns about Dr. Tjan's lack of preparation and research regarding policy and drug protocols; lack of communication with other health care providers; and failure to perform the MAID procedure using two IVs and the appropriate drugs.

As a result of this investigation, the Committee decided to seek an undertaking from Dr. Tjan to address the issues in question. Dr. Tjan signed two undertakings, dated May 8 and May 9, 2018, that provide that she will not engage in the practice of MAID in any respect, and, in her palliative care practice, will practise under the guidance of a supervisor, engage in professional education in palliative and end-of-life care, and undergo reassessment.

In addition to accepting the two undertakings, the Committee decided to require Dr. Tjan to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to lack of knowledge, skill and judgement in the provision of MAID and for failing to educate and prepare herself in advance of providing MAID.