

SUMMARY

DR. AMINE ATTIA (CPSO# 79994)

1. Disposition

On July 20, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required family physician Dr. Attia to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to concerns about his failure to improve his medical record-keeping, even after completing a medical record-keeping course.

The Committee also ordered Dr. Attia to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Attia to:

- Engage in self-directed learning with respect to the CanMEDS roles of Communicator (with respect to record-keeping and specifically the legibility and content of his records) and Advocate (with respect to immunization protocols in Ontario).
- Engage in a 6-month period of clinical supervision with a clinical supervisor acceptable to the College with respect to the quality of his documentation and the quality of his care.
- Undergo reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six months following completion of the education program.

2. Introduction

The College received a public complaint about Dr. Attia in 2013 which raised concerns about his record-keeping. Dr. Attia acknowledged these concerns and, on his own initiative, enrolled in a medical record-keeping course through The University of Toronto. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar’s appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Attia’s practice. The Committee considered the results of that review in this file. It found significant shortcomings with Dr. Attia’s medical record-keeping, despite his having completed a medical record-keeping course recognized by the College.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Committee retained a Medical Inspector (the “MI”) who is a family physician. The MI reviewed a number of Dr. Attia’s patient charts, interviewed Dr. Attia, and submitted a written report to the College.

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, under the heading “Policies & Publications.”

4. Committee’s Analysis

The Committee noted the MI’s finding that of 24 of Dr. Attia’s charts reviewed, 16 did not meet the standard of care as set out in the College policy on medical records. The Committee further noted that the MI conducted a secondary review in order to compare Dr. Attia’s charting before and after taking a medical record-keeping course; the MI found no improvement in Dr. Attia’s charting after having taken the course.

The Committee observed that, as set out in College policy on medical records, the College expects all physicians to keep medical records that are consistent with their legal obligations and the College’s expectations. Many of the elements of the medical record are mandatory (such as legibility, and the requirement to document and date the patient encounter, including in an electronic medical record (EMR)). It is concerning to the College when a physician who has been practising in Ontario for a number of years fails to meet these obligations and expectations.

The Committee noted that Dr. Attia faces an ongoing challenge to meet the College requirement to maintain legible and accurate records, notwithstanding having taken a course in medical record-keeping and having instituted an EMR in his practice. The Committee was troubled to note that, despite ongoing efforts at improvement, Dr. Attia has failed to reach an acceptable standard of record-keeping.