

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**
(Information is available about the complaints process [here](#) and about the Committee [here](#))

Dr. Walid Al-Houssan (CPSO #85716)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Al-Houssan's care and communications regarding his treatment of a patient's ectopic pregnancy. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Al-Houssan's practice.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of July 25, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Al-Houssan to complete a specified continuing remediation and education program (SCERP) consisting of:

- Course work, including: the University of Toronto Medical Record-Keeping Course; the Canadian Medical Protective Association Documentation 1 and 2 modules; and the SAEGIS Successful Patient Interactions course
- One-to-one instruction regarding the identified issues of concern, and how to avoid them in the future
- Self-directed learning with regards to the College's *Medical Records* policy and the College's publication, *The Practice Guide*, as well as *Antibiotic Stewardship* by Choosing Wisely Canada, the MUMS Anti-infective Guidelines, and literature on hypothyroidism
- Clinical supervision regarding his management and investigation of pregnant patients presenting with abdominal pain and vaginal bleeding, and his communications and record-keeping; and
- Reassessment of practice after completion of the educational program.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed an independent Assessor to review a number of Dr. Al-Houssan's patient charts, interview Dr. Al-Houssan, and submit a written report to the Committee. The Assessor opined that:

- Dr. Al-Houssan did not meet the standard of practice in eight of 15 charts reviewed
- Dr. Al-Houssan displayed a lack of judgment or knowledge in five of 15 charts reviewed.

- Dr. Al-Houssan possibly exposed his patients to harm or injury in five of 15 charts reviewed, but no immediate exposure to harm or injury was evident and the risk of harm was minimal.
- There were issues with Dr. Al-Houssan's electronic medical record that resulted in a number of areas not being assessed. For example, the Assessor could not see any medication lists, laboratory requisitions or results, and cumulative patient profiles were copied out by Dr. Al-Houssan after the request for charts was made.
- Dr. Al-Houssan did not follow antibiotic prescribing guidelines, and there were concerns regarding his treatment of corneal abrasions, use of steroid eye drops, migraine and Crohn's management, and his knowledge of medications.
- The Assessor had doubts about how well Dr. Al-Houssan follows suggestions and concerns from specialists, as a number of charts demonstrated advice that had been ignored.

The Committee considered the Assessor's report, and found the following:

- The Committee had concerns about Dr. Al-Houssan's practice – particularly as some areas could not fully be assessed due to issues with his electronic medical record. They noted that the Assessor had some outstanding concerns, despite an overall positive tone. For example, the Assessor identified Dr. Al-Houssan's failure to follow through on consultant's recommendations, his poor adherence to antibiotic prescribing guidelines, his treatment of corneal abrasions, use of steroid eye drops, migraine and Crohn's management, and his knowledge of medications, and the suspect state of his electronic medical record. In the Committee's view, these concerns warranted further education and supervision to ensure Dr. Al-Houssan practises appropriately.
- The Committee noted that Dr. Al-Houssan also has a long College history, and that, despite multiple educational efforts, the concerns identified by the Assessor showed that Dr. Al-Houssan still had not brought his practice to an appropriate level. As a result, the Committee was of the view that more intensive education and supervision was required.