

SUMMARY

DR. NISARUL MIKAIL HUQ (CPSO #63760)

1. Disposition

On May 17, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered Dr. Huq, a specialist in cardiology and internal medicine, to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Huq to:

- Review relevant clinical practice recommendations
- Practice under the guidance of a Clinical Supervisor acceptable to the College for six months
- Undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six months following completion of the educational plan.

2. Introduction

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

In January 2014, Dr. Huq signed an undertaking with the College agreeing, among other things, to practise under the guidance of a clinical supervisor for one year. The Committee considered the five reports Dr. Huq’s supervisor provided to the College.

3. Committee Process

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed a Medical Inspector (the “MI”) to review a number of Dr. Huq’s patient charts, interview Dr. Huq, and submit a written report.

A General 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 considered the report of the MI, who opined that Dr. Huq's patient care demonstrated a lack of knowledge, skill and judgement and that Dr. Huq failed to meet the standard of care in 12 of the 20 charts he reviewed. The MI expressed concern about excessive cardiac testing and stated he could not always understand the indications for testing. He expressed concern that Dr. Huq did not always review test results to confirm the diagnosis before prescribing treatment. Following his interview with Dr. Huq, the MI concluded that overall, Dr. Huq did a poor history and physical examination on the majority of patients.

The Committee acknowledges that some of the issues the MI raised, such as relying on a technician's interpretation of heart tracings and then prescribing on the basis of that interpretation, have become common practice in cardiology. Nevertheless, the Committee considered many of the MI's concerns to be valid and supported by the medical records.

The Committee concluded that an additional period of clinical supervision was warranted to address the issues the Medical Inspector identified in his MI reports. Given the indication in the clinical supervisor's reports that Dr. Huq showed some improvement under his supervision, and considering that Dr. Huq completed communication coaching and a course in medical record-keeping, the Committee was of the view that a six-month supervision period would likely be appropriate.