

SUMMARY

DR. RYAN WESLEY SLOAN (CPSO# 53604)

1. Disposition

On February 16, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) ordered general practitioner Dr. Sloan to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Sloan to:

- complete the Medical Record Keeping Course, through The University of Toronto’s Faculty of Medicine
- engage in self-directed learning by reviewing the College’s *Medical Records* policy and submitting a written summary of his review to the College
- undergo a reassessment of his practice by an assessor selected by the College approximately six (6) months following the completion of the course outlined above.

The Committee also issued advice to Dr. Sloan on the importance of performing and documenting a complete assessment (including neurological and motor assessments) for patients presenting with back pain.

2. Introduction

The College received a complaint about Dr. Sloan’s practice. Specifically, the patient had concerns about Dr. Sloan’s care with respect to lower back pain (including failing to order diagnostic tests, advise the patient of results of an MRI, or provide an urgent referral to a specialist despite the patient’s debilitating pain) and regarding the contents of a letter Dr. Sloan wrote (including the wording Dr. Sloan used, the costs associated with transferring the patient’s records, and Dr. Sloan’s recommendation that the patient seek care through another physician with a significant history with the College).

Dr. Sloan responded that, contrary to the patient’s assertions, he did order diagnostic tests, he did review the results of an MRI with the patient, and he did refer the patient to a specialist. Dr.

Sloan explained the rationale behind the wording in his letter, the costs associated with transferring patient records, and the reasons he recommended the other physician to the patient.

3. Committee Process

A 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.cpsso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee found that, while Dr. Sloan's care of the patient was acceptable, the record revealed concerns about the legibility and substance of Dr. Sloan's charting. In particular, the Committee was concerned that Dr. Sloan's chart for the patient lacked thorough documentation of examinations, including neurological examinations, during appointments where the patient had complained of back pain. For this reason, the Committee issued advice to Dr. Sloan.

While acknowledging that Dr. Sloan had reflected upon and identified shortcomings in his medical record-keeping generally, the Committee felt that the best way to ensure that Dr. Sloan carried through with the changes he stated he intended to make was for him to complete remedial training and self-directed learning, and undergo a reassessment.