

SUMMARY

DR. ROGER IAN DACRE (CPSO# 53606)

1. Disposition

On November 16, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required family medicine physician Dr. Dacre to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to professionalism, communications, and the importance of adhering to the College’s Policy Statement #3-08, *Ending the Physician-Patient Relationship*.

2. Introduction

Patient A complained to the College that Dr. Dacre improperly terminated the physician-patient relationship based on disingenuous reasons without first discussing the matter with the patient and, subsequently, was unavailable to provide emergency care.

Dr. Dacre responded that he had explained the importance of a good doctor-patient relationship to Patient A, including that it involved the patient taking responsibility for following up on tests to monitor chronic illnesses. Patient A failed to complete the necessary follow up and this led to his decision to terminate Patient A from his practice. While he was unavailable to provide emergency care, his secretary gave Patient A details to attend the same emergency care available to his other patients that day.

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.cpso.on.ca, under the heading “Policies & Publications.”

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee was concerned that Dr. Dacre decided to terminate a 15-year physician-patient relationship based on the patient not having regular follow-up work for a chronic illness. Dr. Dacre acknowledged not having had a specific discussion about the potential for termination.

The College's policy on *Ending the Physician-Patient Relationship* is relevant here. That policy sets out, among other things, that, "In general, a physician should not end the physician-patient relationship because the patient chooses not to follow the physician's advice," and, "Reasonable efforts include discussing with the patient, when possible, the reasons affecting the physician's ability to provide quality care and/or the elements that are necessary for an effective physician-patient relationship."

The Committee's concern about this case was heightened by the fact that Dr. Dacre has a history of complaints to the College raising similar issues, including the need for professional communications. While the Committee took no action in some of the related matters, they found it concerning that Dr. Dacre continues to receive complaints in this area.

Based on the above, the Committee determined that the appropriate disposition is to require Dr. Dacre to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to professionalism, communications, and the importance of adhering to the College's Policy Statement #3-08, *Ending the Physician-Patient Relationship*.