

SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee)

(Information about the complaints process and the Committee is available at:

<https://www.cpsa.on.ca/Public-Information-Services/Learn-About-Our-Complaints-Process>)

Dr. Christopher Keith Blue (CPSO #94354)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information from a family member of Patient A, raising concerns about Dr. Blue's hair transplant practice, specifically, as to whether Dr. Blue was delegating acts appropriately. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a review of Dr. Blue's practice.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of January 9, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Blue to attend at the College to be cautioned in person:

- to ensure delegation of controlled acts in accordance with College Policy #5-12, *Delegation of Controlled Acts*
- to keep appropriate medical records, in accordance with College Policy #4-12, *Medical Records*
- to ensure accuracy in his response to College investigations.

The Committee requested that Dr. Blue review the above-noted policies, and provide the College with a written report about them, in advance of attending for the caution.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Patient A's family member stated he was present for Patient A's procedure, and that they never met Dr. Blue and only learned of his identity as it was on the prescription for antibiotic cream the patient received after the procedure. In the course of its investigation, the Committee contacted other patients (Patients B, C, D and E) who had attended Dr. Blue's office for hair transplantation. None of them recalled meeting Dr. Blue. They described having their assessment completed and procedure done by another individual. They also received antibiotic prescriptions under the name of Dr. Blue.

Dr. Blue responded by denying that the family member was present and asserting that he (Dr. Blue) was present for Patient A's procedure. The Committee noted that the documentation regarding Patient A did not support Dr. Blue's assertion that he was present, undermining his response in this regard. Information from the other patients was consistent and supported the Committee's impression that technicians were providing a delegated act unsupervised. The Committee concluded that Dr. Blue had not met the College's expectations regarding

delegation of controlled acts, including expectations that the physician meets and assesses patients, obtains their informed consent and orders a course of therapy.

Dr. Blue did not provide any response respecting the four other patients (Patients B, C, D and E) whom the Committee had contacted for information regarding their experiences. The Committee noted that the documentation respecting all patients that it reviewed appeared to be a template, with the same wording and description for the patients, with only the patient name changed. This failed to meet the College's expectations regarding appropriate medical record-keeping.

For these reasons, the Committee determined it was appropriate to require Dr. Blue to attend to be cautioned, as set out above.