SUMMARY

Dr. Neetu Chakravarti (CPSO# 92227)

1. Disposition

On May 4, 2016, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee ("the Committee") required general practitioner Dr. Chakravarti to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program ("SCERP"). The SCERP requires Dr. Chakravarti to:

- Successfully complete the Boundaries Course offered by Schulich School of Medicine, Western University
- participate in one-on-one instruction in professionalism and ethics.

The Committee further required that, after completion of the SCERP, Dr. Chakravarti will appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to misuse of her position as a physician, and her lack of candour with the College.

2. Introduction

The mother of an infant, engaged in separation and divorce proceedings, complained to the College that Dr. Chakravarti had telephoned a midwife clinic where the infant was a patient claiming to be the infant's paediatrician, had requested a copy of the infant's medical records without consent, and had threatened to involve the Children's Aid Society (CAS) if the records were not released to her. The infant's mother believed that Dr. Chakravarti did this on the request of the infant's father, who was a friend of Dr. Chakravarti.

Dr. Chakravarti acknowledged that the infant's father was a personal friend. She acknowledged placing a call to the midwife clinic. She denied representing herself as the infant's paediatrician and denied requesting the infant's records. She asserted there was a misunderstanding between herself and the receptionist at the midwife clinic. She stated that she did contact the CAS for advice about her reporting obligations in this case.

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

It appears from the information before the Committee that Dr. Chakravarti called the midwife clinic to obtain the infant's medical records at the request of the infant's father, misrepresented herself as the infant's treating physician (although not as a paediatrician) in the process and threatened to call CAS if the midwife clinic did not provide the records to her. Dr. Chakravarti attempted to fraudulently manipulate the midwife clinic staff into releasing the medical record, and was less than candid with the College. This demonstrates very poor judgment, and a major ethical failing unbecoming a physician.

In the Committee's view, Dr. Chakravarti needs education in understanding of the ethical and legal role of a physician's involvement in child custody disputes, and of her professional interactions with other health professionals. Further, the Committee ordered Dr. Chakravarti to attend the College to discuss in person the issues of misuse of her position as a physician, and her lack of candour with the College in responding to the complaint.