

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/Services/Complaints>

Dr. Samir Barsoum Aziz (CPSO #83230)

INTRODUCTION

In November 2013, Dr. Aziz entered into an undertaking requiring that he engage in clinical supervision, professional education, and a reassessment. In March 2017, the College retained a physician practicing emergency medicine (the Assessor) to conduct a reassessment of Dr. Aziz's practice. In January 2019, after unsuccessful attempts at negotiating an undertaking with Dr. Aziz, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of March 5, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Aziz to complete a specified continuing remediation and education program (SCERP) consisting of clinical supervision for 6 months in duration, with a review of a minimum of 15 to 20 charts at each visit to assess for the quality of documentation and care; and reassessment, approximately 6 months following the completion of the education plan.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Assessor reviewed 25 patient charts and interviewed Dr. Aziz. Dr. Aziz was asked to transcribe each record, as his handwriting was illegible. The Assessor opined that Dr. Aziz met the standard of practice in 22 of 25 charts; that Dr. Aziz did not lack skill, knowledge or judgement in 23 of 25 charts; and that Dr. Aziz's clinical practice, behaviour or conduct did not expose or was not likely to expose his patients to harm or injury in 23 of 25 charts.

During Dr. Aziz's period of supervision from 2013 to 2016, Dr. Aziz's supervisor noted that his handwriting was difficult to read and needed improvement. In Dr. Aziz's most recent assessment, the Assessor identified concerns including with respect to the legibility of his notes and completeness of his documentation. Additionally, the Assessor identified a lack of judgment and potential risk of harm with respect to the administration of benzodiazepines in one case. It has now been some time since the reassessment of Dr. Aziz's practice and it is not apparent what changes Dr. Aziz has implemented to improve on these aspects of his practice.

Overall, Dr. Aziz has shown improvement after extensive remediation. His clinical care has met the standard in the vast majority of cases that were reviewed. However, there are still recurrent problems with his medical records. Given these concerns, Dr. Aziz requires further supervision to ensure his charting is legible, complete, and contains documentation of appropriate assessments. A further reassessment following this supervision will help ensure that the deficiencies identified in the Assessor's report have been addressed.