

SUMMARY

DR. LORI ANNE HASULO (CPSO #69141)

1. Disposition

On August 20, 2015, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (“the Committee”) required family physician Dr. Hasulo to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to deceptive behaviour (by prescribing narcotics to a patient in another patient’s name), documenting this care in another patient’s chart, providing medical care contrary to her contract with her employer, and hiding such care from the patient’s family physician.

In addition, the Committee ordered Dr. Hasulo to complete a specified continuing education and remediation program (“SCERP”). The SCERP requires Dr. Hasulo to:

- successfully complete a minimum of 7 hours of individualized instruction in professionalism and medical ethics, to be facilitated by the College;
- review the following College policies:
 - #4-12, *Medical Records*
 - #4-07, *Physician Behaviour in the Professional Environment*
 - #1-10, *Dispensing Drugs*
 - #8-05, *Confidentiality of Personal Health Information*
 - #7-06, *Treating Self and Family Members*;
- obtain and review the College Practice Guide: Medical Professionalism and the Canadian Medical Association’s Code of Ethics; and
- provide a single written summary of her review of the policies and guides listed above, concluding with a reflection on the aspects of the policies and guides that are applicable to her situation and how she would deal with a similar situation in the future.

2. Introduction

The College received a complaint that Dr. Hasulo breached her contract with her employer at a Community Health Centre by providing medical services to a staff person, prescribed medications to this staff person, including controlled substances, and did not document the treatment and prescriptions she provided.

Dr. Hasulo acknowledged that she provided medical care to her colleague at a health clinic and that she prescribed narcotic medication to this person. Dr. Hasulo indicated that she provided only urgent care and did so because she was familiar with her colleague's health history. Dr. Hasulo acknowledged that she documented her assessment and prescriptions regarding her colleague in another patient's chart because her colleague indicated she feared reprisal from her family physician for double-doctoring.

3. Committee Process

A Surgical Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the complaint, as well as College policies and relevant legislation.

4. Committee's Analysis

The Committee was very concerned by Dr. Hasulo's significant lapse of judgement in this matter. Though Dr. Hasulo reported she provided only urgent care to her colleague, her indication that she reviewed her colleague's health history with her over a period of one and a half years demonstrated she was heavily involved in her ongoing care. In prescribing narcotic medications to her colleague under another patient's name, Dr. Hasulo committed a deceptive act. The Committee believes that Dr. Hasulo compounded this error by documenting the encounter in another patient's chart to hide her actions thereby hiding her advice and treatments from the colleague's family physician. Dr. Hasulo failed to document her care of her colleague appropriately and breached the terms of her contract with the health clinic by providing medical care to a colleague.

In light of the above, the Committee decided to issue a caution and require Dr. Hasulo to appear before a panel of the Committee and complete the SCERP.