

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**
(Information is available about the complaints process [here](#) and about the Committee [here](#))

Dr. Hendrik Lewies Venter (CPSO# 81852)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information that Dr. Venter, a family physician, prescribed medication to another physician, Dr. X.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A Family Practice Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of June 27, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Venter to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to prescribing and doing consultations without keeping records and prescribing to others close to him. The Committee also requested that Dr. Venter provide a written report, reviewing the College's policies, *Physician Treatment of Self, Family Members, or Others Close to Them, Medical Records, and Confidentiality of Personal Health Information*.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Dr. Venter acknowledged that he repeatedly wrote prescriptions to Dr. X over three years with the intention of helping Dr. X with his medical issue. Dr. Venter indicated that he did not make any records of these encounters. Dr. Venter indicated that he had given Dr. X his password to his computer and Dr. X would often use his computer, write prescriptions for himself, and delete the entry.

In the Committee's view, by writing prescriptions for Dr. X, who was his friend, in a non-emergent situation where other physicians were readily available, Dr. Venter heightened the risks of compromised objectivity and his ability to meet the standard of care.

By providing Dr. X with his password, Dr. Venter gave Dr. X inappropriate access to patients' personal health information that would be on the computer. Physicians must ensure they meet their legal and professional obligations to maintain patient confidentiality, as outlined in the College's policy, *Confidentiality of Personal Health Information*.

The Committee was also concerned by Dr. Venter's failure to keep medical records of his interactions with Dr. X. The College's policy, *Medical Records*, states that, "Every patient encounter and all patient-related information must be documented in either English or French and dated in the medical record." There is no indication that Dr. Venter conducted a full history and examination to make a diagnosis for Dr. X, or documented these, as he should have.