

**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. Samir Abouna (CPSO #83576)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Abouna's care and conduct. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Abouna's practice.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of September 18, 2019. The Committee required Dr. Abouna to complete a specified continuing remediation and education program (SCERP) consisting of courses in opioid prescribing and medical record-keeping, a period of clinical supervision and a reassessment three months following completion of the education program.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed an independent Assessor to review a number of Dr. Abouna's patient charts, interview Dr. Abouna, and submit a written report to the Committee.

The Assessor opined that Dr. Abouna's care failed to meet the standard in 10 of the 14 patient charts she reviewed. She noted in particular that Dr. Abouna's skills in the management of chronic pain fell below the standard of practice both in his use of opioids as first-line pain medication without consideration of other modalities of pain management, as well as in his overall poor documentation of addiction risk assessment and evaluation of pain control. The Assessor also had concerns about poor documentation and inconsistent management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and of other conditions such as sexually transmitted infections, vitamin B12 deficiency and microscopic hematuria.

In light of the Assessor's extensive concerns regarding Dr. Abouna's clinical care of conditions common to family practice, inappropriate opioid prescribing and inadequate medical record-keeping, the Committee decided to require him to complete the SCERP described above.