

**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. Robert Forget (CPSO # 23424)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Complainant attended an appointment with the Respondent with concerns about knee pain. During this visit the Respondent provided a cortisone injection into the Complainant's right knee, which she maintains occurred without her consent and with no warning. The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concerns about the Respondent's care and conduct.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent:

- **did not obtain free and informed consent before providing an intervention (cortisone injection); and**
- **administered unjustified and abusive use of a cortisone injection.**

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of June 12, 2019. The Committee accepted an undertaking from the Respondent (which included a period of clinical supervision, education and a reassessment) and required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to his overuse of steroid injections, his lack of communication, and his informed consent process.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Respondent stated that he discussed the pros and cons of the cortisone with the Complainant and that she expressly stated that she wished to proceed with the injection. However, the Complainant denied that she was ever specifically asked if she wanted the injection, and advised that she never had a chance to discuss the subject with the Respondent.

The Committee stated that it was not in a position to know exactly what transpired during the visit in issue. However, it was clear that the Complainant strongly believed that she was not adequately informed or given sufficient opportunity to provide consent for the treatment provided. At the very least this demonstrated a significant failure in communication.

The Committee's concern was heightened by the fact that it also had before it two concurrent matters which also included issues about poor documentation, informed consent, the inappropriate use of steroid injections, and professional communications; and the Respondent had a lengthy history with the College with interventions in the past for similar issues.

As a result of its investigation, the Committee had concerns about the Respondent's practice, including his use of injections, his record-keeping (including his documentation of consent to treatment discussions) and his communication with the Complainant.

The Committee noted that the Respondent expressed his intention to take necessary steps to improve his practice, pursuant to an undertaking (a binding promise between the College and a physician which is posted on the public register and remains there while it is in effect, in which the physician agrees to do (or not do) certain things in order to address the Committee's concerns and to protect the public interest). The College and the Respondent agreed upon an undertaking that addressed the identified concerns, dated April 29, 2019.

In addition to accepting the Respondent's undertaking, the Committee determined that a caution, as set out above, was warranted.