

**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)

INTRODUCTION

In the course of investigating a complaint by one of Dr. Forget's patients, the College obtained an independent opinion from an orthopedic surgeon which raised concerns regarding various aspects of Dr. Forget's practice. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. Forget's practice.

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 Dr. Forget (which included a period of clinical supervision, education and a reassessment) and required him to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to his failure to properly examine patients, his overuse of steroid injections, lack of communication, his informed consent process, and inappropriate billing.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

As part of this investigation, the Registrar appointed an independent Assessor to review a number of Dr. Forget's patient charts, interview Dr. Forget, and submit a written report to the Committee. The Assessor concluded that Dr. Forget's care often fell below the standard, mainly in relation to his medical record keeping and his attention to detail in the evaluation of patients. The Assessor also had concerns about Dr. Forget's billing practices as they pertain to injections primarily. When interviewing Dr. Forget about documenting discussions with patients regarding the risks, benefits and issues related to injections, the Assessor indicated that he asked Dr. Forget about cortisone type injections in particular and what risks he thought related to that treatment, and Dr. Forget responded that there was "zero" risk from a cortisone injection. The Assessor stated that when further questioned on the issue, Dr. Forget did admit there was some risk but asserted that he discussed this with the patient and the risk in his estimation is extremely low and overblown by many physicians.

As a result of the investigation, the Committee had concerns about Dr. Forget's practice, including his assessment of patients, his use of injections, his record-keeping (including his documentation of consent to treatment discussions), his billings, and his 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 use of steroid injections, billings, and professional communications; and Dr. Forget 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 Dr. Forget's practice, including his assessment of patients, his use of injections, his record-keeping (including his documentation of the consent to treatment discussions), his billings, and his communication with patients.

The Committee noted that Dr. Forget 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 Dr. Forget agreed upon an undertaking that addressed the identified concerns, dated April 29, 2019.

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