

SUMMARY

DR. MURRAY JOSEPH MACGILLIS (CPSO# 31964)

1. Disposition

On August 9, 2017, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (the Committee) required anesthesiologist Dr. MacGillis to appear before a panel of the Committee to be cautioned with respect to being responsible and physically present for patients in his care. The Committee also asked Dr. MacGillis to review the risks posed by his practice of leaving anesthetized, intubated patients unattended in the OR, and to reflect on his professionalism in the fact that he did not comply with hospital requests regarding this issue on multiple occasions in the past, and provide the Committee with a written report (approximately two to four pages in length) on these subjects.

2. Introduction

The College received information raising concerns that Dr. MacGillis had left anesthetized, intubated patients unattended in the hospital Operating Room (OR). Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to conduct a broad review of Dr. MacGillis's practice.

3. Committee Process

A General Panel of the Committee, consisting of public and physician members, met to review the relevant records and documents related to the investigation. The Committee always has before it applicable legislation and regulations, along with policies that the College has developed, which reflect the College's professional expectations for physicians practising in Ontario. Current versions of these documents are available on the College's website at www.cpso.on.ca, under the heading "Policies & Publications."

4. Committee's Analysis

Information from the hospital indicates it had asked Dr. MacGillis to stop the practice of leaving intubated, anesthetized patients unattended in the OR in both 2004 and 2007, and the behaviour was common and persistent over the past ten years. Dr. MacGillis explained the circumstances that led him to develop this pattern of practice. He said he recognizes he made an error in judgement, regrets his actions, and will not let this happen again. Dr. MacGillis did not specifically comment on why he did not fully appreciate the irregularities of his actions in 2004 or 2007.

The Committee was concerned about the pattern over time and recurrence of Dr. MacGillis's behaviour of leaving anesthetized, intubated patients unattended in the OR after explicit requests (from the hospital) that he desist. The Committee noted Dr. MacGillis's lack of insight into the risks that he posed to patients through his behaviour.

The Committee concluded that it was appropriate to require Dr. MacGillis to attend at the College to be cautioned in person.