

**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. Farid Mostafa Abdel Hadi (CPSO #85555)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Respondent is an obstetrician and gynaecologist. He is a Medical Director of Injectables at a clinic which provides various cosmetic and medical services.

The Patient was first seen at the clinic in April 2019; however, the Respondent did not see the Patient at that time.

In November 2019, the Respondent assessed the Patient by videoconference for a lipotropic injection.

The Patient experienced complications after a hyaluronic acid injection (a dermal filler) in June 2020, which the Respondent treated with hyaluronidase injections.

The Patient also discovered pictures of her medical conditions and other documents with identifying information, posted on the clinic's social media account.

The Complainant, who is the Patient's lawyer, contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concern, on the Patient's behalf, about the Respondent's care and conduct.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

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| <p>The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent failed to provide adequate care in the treatment of hyaluronic acid injections and violated the Patient's confidentiality by posting photographs of her medical condition on social media.</p> |
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COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of February 10, 2021. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to failing to adequately monitor and supervise the delegation of treatment, and in particular, in November 2019, failing to fully review the Patient's record and thus failing to appreciate there had been unauthorized delegation of treatment in April 2019; and failing to take reasonable steps to ensure that the Patient's personal health information was protected.

The Committee also accepted an undertaking from the Respondent.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Re: failed to provide adequate care in the treatment of hyaluronic acid injections

The Respondent had set up an appropriate process to delegate treatment whereby he completed a consultation with patients and then approved injections which were delegated to staff. However, the Respondent failed to adequately monitor and supervise the delegation of treatment.

When the Respondent saw the Patient in November 2019, as the most responsible physician and as Medical Director of Injectables, he should have reviewed the Patient's records and asked about prior treatment. If he had done this, the Respondent would have recognized that in April 2019 staff had injected the Patient without his knowledge and with no existing physician-patient relationship or physician assessment, which is contrary to College policy on *Delegation of Controlled Acts*. The Respondent then could have taken steps to address this unauthorized controlled act with staff. In the end, the Respondent only became aware of this issue when the Patient had a complication after an injection in June 2020, which suggests he had inadequate oversight of delegation to the Patient.

Once the Respondent became aware of the previously unauthorized delegation he took appropriate steps to address the concern. He also took appropriate steps to assess and treat the Complainant when she had complications after the June 2020 injection.

Re: violated the Patient's confidentiality by posting photographs of her medical condition on a social media account

The medical record shows the Patient only consented to the use of her photographs for medical purposes.

The Respondent's staff should have been aware that it was inappropriate to put a Patient's photograph along with identifying information on a public media account without consent. As a health care custodian, the Respondent must take reasonable steps to protect personal health information from unauthorized disclosure; this includes ensuring staff are aware of their duties to manage personal health information and not to disclose it inappropriately. It is also concerning that even when the Respondent explained to staff that it was inappropriate, the clinic manager refused to remove it.

As a result of this investigation, the Committee had concerns about the Respondent's delegation of treatment and his failure to take reasonable steps to ensure that the Patient's personal health information was protected. In addition to cautioning the Respondent on these subjects, the Committee accepted an undertaking from the Respondent, with terms to include professional education in the following areas: delegating controlled acts, advertising, protecting personal health information, appropriate use of social media by physicians, and consent to treatment.