

**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. Meir Jonathon Solnik (CPSO# 107160)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

The Respondent obstetrician/gynaecologist, accompanied by a medical student, assessed the Complainant at a hospital to investigate persistent bleeding and post-coital bleeding. The Complainant underwent internal examination.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant stated that while she was a patient in the Respondent's care, he made an inappropriate comment of a sexual nature to her during an internal examination.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of March 6, 2019. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to appropriate boundaries during a physical examination and displaying sufficient care about how his comments might be perceived, and asked him to submit to the College a written report reflecting on this specific encounter and what he has learned from it.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Committee noted that a hospital review into the incident concluded that there was no dispute that the Respondent made a comment to the Complainant, while the medical student was initiating a vaginal examination, that made the Complainant feel uncomfortable, and that the comment was sufficiently serious to constitute sexual harassment.

Further, the Respondent did not deny making some kind of comment which made the Complainant feel uncomfortable. This occurred while the Complainant was lying down, having an intimate physical examination by a male physician and a male medical student, both of whom she had just met, and hearing a comment which implied she was experiencing sexual enjoyment, all of which added to the significance of the complaint.

The Committee noted, however, that the hospital review also stated there were no sexual advances, solicitation or sexual touching, and that the Complainant advised that the rest of the examination was carried out as expected, with no concerns.

The Respondent asserted that he was making a light-hearted attempt to put the Complainant at ease; in retrospect, he now realizes it was very inappropriate.

The Respondent had completed a course of communications coaching. Taking into account information from the communications coach and from the Respondent, the Committee was satisfied that the Respondent has insight into how words, even if meant to put a patient at ease, can in fact make the patient uncomfortable.

The Committee determined, in the circumstances, that it would be appropriate to require the Respondent to attend the College to be cautioned, and, in advance, to submit a written reflection about what he has learned from this patient encounter.