

Jan. 15, 2019

CPSA moves to suspend permit of physician charged with sexual assault

Edmonton, AB – The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) has learned that Dr. Barry Wollach, an anesthesiologist from Lethbridge, has been charged with one count of criminal sexual assault.

While these charges have not yet been proven in a court of law, the CPSA does not feel it is appropriate for Dr. Wollach to continue practising medicine, given the seriousness of the allegations against him.

“The CPSA is disturbed by the criminal charges. In order to maintain trust in the medical profession and to protect the public, we will use the *Health Professions Act*’s full authority to manage this situation,” says CPSA Registrar Dr. Scott McLeod. “Regardless of the allegations, we remain confident the vast majority of physicians in our province provide quality care to Albertans.”

The CPSA has sought the immediate surrender of Dr. Wollach’s practice permit, pending the resolution of the criminal charges and any associated CPSA disciplinary processes. In the unlikely event the CPSA cannot secure an agreement with Dr. Wollach for a voluntary withdrawal, the *Health Professions Act* gives the CPSA the authority to suspend a physician in the interest of public safety.

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The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the regulator for all physicians and surgeons in the province and is governed by the Health Professions Act. Our role is to protect the public by issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria, hold Alberta physicians to ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. The CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.

For more information, contact:

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