
March 10, 2020

Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghamdi unsuccessfully appeals CPSA disciplinary decision to Alberta Court of Appeal

Edmonton, AB – The Alberta Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal of a CPSA disciplinary decision, filed by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghamdi.

In 2017, a CPSA hearing tribunal found Dr. Al-Ghamdi guilty of eight counts of disruptive conduct towards his colleagues at Grande Prairie’s Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, which negatively impacted the delivery of services at the hospital. This behaviour included:

- Failing to participate in and follow on-call schedule and procedures, and claiming to have an on-call schedule of his own.
- Failing to cooperate with colleagues to ensure surgical cases were performed on the basis of need for urgent care.
- Inciting fear and distrust by threatening legal action and making repeated complaints against colleagues, to hospital administration and to the health authority.
- Failing to follow the issue/dispute resolution processes set out in the hospital’s bylaws and policies.
- Having nursing staff open sterilized packs of surgical instruments not reasonably required, making them unavailable.

Dr. Al-Ghamdi’s practice permit was suspended by the tribunal for a minimum of two years, until such time as his fitness to practice medicine was professionally assessed. He was also ordered to pay a portion of costs associated with the investigation and hearings.

Dr. Al-Ghamdi appealed the decision to a CPSA Council Review Panel in 2018, where it was upheld. He then appealed to the Alberta Court of Appeal, stating that the sanction was unreasonable and arguing that his conduct did not meet the definition of unprofessional conduct under the *Health Professions Act*. The Court of Appeal dismissed Dr. Al-Ghamdi’s appeal, ruling that while the hearing tribunal improperly relied on some evidence, the errors were not sufficient to undermine the original decision.

Dr. Al-Ghamdi’s practice permit was cancelled in February 2019 for failing to complete his annual registration requirements.

Resources:

[Alberta Court of Appeal decision](#)
[CPSA Council Review Panel decision](#)
[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision](#)
[CPSA Media Release \(Dec. 12, 2018\)](#)

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Media Release

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. CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.

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