

---

**March 5, 2020**

### **Dr. Sanjeev Bhardwaj’s practice permit cancelled after inappropriate relationships with patients**

**Edmonton, AB** – A CPSA hearing tribunal cancelled the practice permit of Stony Plain family physician Dr. Sanjeev Bhardwaj, after he plead guilty to six counts of unprofessional conduct.

“Albertans should feel safe and confident they’ll receive good care when visiting the doctor,” says CPSA Registrar Dr. Scott McLeod. “We are pleased with this outcome and the precedent it sets. This reaffirms the responsibility health care providers have to protect their patients.”

At his disciplinary hearing in late 2018, Dr. Bhardwaj admitted to:

- sexual involvement with four of his patients,
- prescribing high levels of opioids to one of those patients despite clear signs of addiction, and
- failing to report this conduct to CPSA during the annual permit renewal process.

A sanction hearing was held in May 2019. While sanctions under Bill 21: *An Act to Protect Patients*, do not apply as this case precedes the change in legislation, CPSA’s Complaints Director asked the tribunal to revoke Dr. Bhardwaj’s practice permit, citing society’s increased understanding of the harm caused by sexual misconduct and the expected behaviour from health professionals. Dr. Bhardwaj admitted his guilt and stated he has taken many steps to improve himself and his conduct.

After considering all the arguments presented, the tribunal agreed with CPSA’s recommendation and cancelled Dr. Bhardwaj’s practice permit. Given the gravity of Dr. Bhardwaj’s conduct and the impact it continues to have on vulnerable patients, the tribunal felt cancellation was appropriate. Dr. Bhardwaj was also ordered to pay 50 per cent of the costs associated with his hearing and investigation.

As of the date of this release, Dr. Bhardwaj has not appealed this sanction—under the *Health Professions Act*, he has 30 days from the date of the decision to notify CPSA in writing if he wants to appeal. Dr. Bhardwaj can apply to reinstate his permit in three years. He has not been in practice since 2016.

#### **Resources:**

[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision \(on sanction\)](#)

[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision](#)

[CPSA Media Release \(June 24, 2019\)](#)

#### **Media Inquiries:**

Jessica McPhee, Director of Communications

Phone: 780 401 0972

Email: [jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca)

- 30 -

*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.*

**Media Inquiries:**

Jessica McPhee, Director of Communications

Phone: 780 401 0972

Email: [jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca)