

**Sept. 1, 2020**

### **Edmonton physician admits to boundary violations with patients**

**Edmonton, AB** – Edmonton Family Physician Dr. Haroon Imtiaz appeared before a CPSA Hearing Tribunal and admitted guilt to five charges against him, including a boundary violation with one patient, violation of appropriate professional boundaries with a clinic co-worker, improper billing (two charges) and failing to provide the minimum standard of care to his patient.

The patient and colleague boundary violations involved inappropriate comments, conduct and protocol, and in one case failing to have a mandatory chaperone present for a sensitive exam. Dr. Imtiaz admitted to all of the allegations against him to avoid unnecessary time and expense in the hearing process.

The Hearing Tribunal imposed the following sanctions:

- A six-month suspension with two months' suspension having already been served and the remaining four months deferred on the condition that Dr. Imtiaz demonstrates good character for 12 months following the hearing.
  - If CPSA's Complaints Director becomes aware of any behaviour that does not demonstrate good conduct in the 12 months following the hearing, the remaining four months of the suspension will be served.
  - If Dr. Imtiaz and the Complaints Director disagree on the condition of good character in the 12 month period, the hearing tribunal will make the final decision.
- The 2017 undertaking requiring a chaperone condition on Dr. Imtiaz's practice permit will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2021, unless a further boundary violation is reported at which point it may be extended.
- Dr. Imtiaz is responsible for 50% of the costs of the investigations and the hearing, totaling \$14,162.79.

Sanctions in this case do not fall under Bill 21, *An Act to Protect Patients*, as the charges predate the change in legislation.

#### **Resource:**

[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision](#)

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

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