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**THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF MANITOBA
INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE**

IN THE MATTER OF: *THE REGULATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, CCSM
c. R117, Part 8 (the “RHPA”)*

AND IN THE MATTER OF: **DR. ABDEL-KAREEM CHEHADI, a registrant of the
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba
(“CPSM”)**

CENSURE: IC6039

DATE OF CENSURE: April 28, 2023

I. OVERVIEW:

On April 28, 2023, in accordance with subsection 102(2)(d) of the RHPA, the Investigation Committee censured Dr. Chehadi with respect to his inappropriate and unprofessional response to a post on the website ‘RateMDs’. The circumstances that led to censure are described below.

II. STANDARDS APPLIED:

Physicians are expected to demonstrate a high standard of ethical and professional conduct in their practice, including by consistently acting with decency and integrity despite difficulties or adversity. An overriding ethical imperative is that the physician will, *“Consider first the well-being of the patient; always act to benefit the patient and promote the good of the patient.”* CPSM’s Code of Ethics provides that physicians are expected to *“Always treat the patient with dignity and respect the equal and intrinsic worth of all persons.”*

III. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO CENSURE:

Dr. Chehadi is a registrant of CPSM who practices Family Practice. Pt A began seeing him in November 2019 with a history of substance abuse disorder, including alcohol and benzodiazepine abuse, as well as anxiety. Dr. Chehadi’s plan included consultation with an addiction specialist, tapering of medications, and cognitive behavioural therapy. Possible depression was noted in January 2020. While receiving care from Dr. Chehadi, Pt A required periodic completion of MPI forms as their driver’s license had been cancelled considering issues relating to substance abuse.

Dr. Chehadi and Pt A had no interaction between January and July 2020. A conflict arose in July 2020 surrounding completion of MPI forms as well as a long-term disability form and this led to a deterioration of the physician-patient relationship, which ended in August 2020. In this context, following an appointment on July 17, 2020, Pt A anonymously posted the following comment on RateMDs on July 18, 2020:

Please do not waste your time with this Dr if you have Mental Health issues or need forms filled out for health or work concerns. My forms were filled out wrong with all medication I NO longer take and used the wrong diagnosis even when it was directly in front of him on his computer. He informed me I needed objective proof. He was exceptionally nice upon first visit. Did not realize that he is a not a doctor but mostly a homeopath. Wont prescribe anything above a Tylonal 3 even when coming off medications to help ease the pain. Said I would have handle the withdrawals on my own. Does not care about the patients well being. Ended up in Urgent Care after meeting with him that same day. He also told me we were not a great fit in the middle of my crisis. Left me hanging. A complaint will be issued to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Please do not go see him. He is a horrible non caring doctor. However, his receptionist is lovely.

Dr. Chehadi posted the following reply to Pt A's comment on July 20, 2020:

Yup, your "0" years of medical knowledge and experience trumps my "20"? I guess you lost your job because of me and not because of the different kinds of bottles you may or may not have guzzled down?

Pt A complained to CPSM about Dr. Chehadi's conduct. Dr. Chehadi advised he was uncertain of the identity of the author of the comment at the time of his posting in response. Regardless of whether Dr. Chehadi knew who posted the July 18, 2020, comment on the RateMDs website, Dr. Chehadi acknowledges his July 20, 2020 reply was inappropriate and unprofessional.

IV. CENSURE:

On the above facts, the Investigation Committee censured Dr. Chehadi for his inappropriate and unprofessional posting. Dr. Chehadi's comments were blatantly disrespectful. It is aggravating that they were made in a public forum toward someone with a reported history of mental health and substance abuse issues. The Committee is also aware that Dr. Chehadi had responded to other online posts and some included comments that the Committee found unprofessional. This is unacceptable conduct, particularly for an experienced physician who should have known better than to engage in such harmful, online discourse.

Censure by the Investigation Committee creates a disciplinary record and may be considered in future by the Complaints Committee, Investigation Committee, or a Panel of the Inquiry Committee of CPSM acting in accordance with subsection 126(2) of the RHPA.

V. ORDERS:

The Investigation Committee directed, pursuant to subsection 104(2) of the RHPA, that this censure and a description of the circumstances that led to the censure be made available to the public. Dr. Chehadi was ordered to pay the costs of the investigation in the amount of \$3,487.50.