

STATEMENT FROM THE REGISTRAR Dr. Naseer Ahmed Warraich - Cancellation of Registration

An Inquiry Panel of CPSM has cancelled Dr. Naseer Ahmed Warraich's license and registration following a hearing into his medical practice. The Inquiry Panel's decision to cancel was based on the following:

- 1. Despite attempts to remediate deficiencies over time, Dr. Warraich failed to demonstrate that he was providing adequate care to patients and failed to create and maintain adequate medical records, such that his records did not allow for a comprehensive assessment of the nature and extent of the care he was providing to patients.
- Dr. Warraich failed to meet the standard of care in his management and treatment of a
 patient in his family practice by failing to adequately diagnose, manage and treat that
 patient's tuberculosis. He further failed to maintain adequate medical records respecting
 the care he provided.
- 3. In respect to a hospital patient for whom he was responsible, Dr. Warraich failed or neglected to conduct physical examinations that were indicated and created a false and misleading medical record relating to his attendances on the patient.
- 4. Over a period of approximately three years, Dr. Warraich engaged in unethical and inappropriate billing practices relating to residents in personal care homes. Specifically, he arranged for claims for services purportedly provided by him to residents to be routinely submitted to Manitoba Health as visits to those patients when he had not in fact seen or examined the patients for whom he billed a visit.
- 5. In relation to his attendance at two personal care homes to which he attended weekly, Dr. Warraich created medical records that were misleading as to the nature and extent of his involvement in the visits in question. He routinely documented information in charts that suggested that he conducted an assessment, examination or provided care when in fact he did not.
- 6. Based cumulatively on all its findings against Dr. Warraich, the Inquiry Panel found he displayed a lack of knowledge, skill, and judgment in the practice of medicine.

During the CPSM investigation and hearing, Dr. Warraich practiced under significant restrictions as well as supervision. In this context, the Inquiry Panel stated, "although Dr. Warraich has been practicing with limits on his practice (including supervision) ..., those limits have not been sufficient to prevent ongoing deficiencies in his charting and medical record keeping ...". In cancelling Dr. Warraich's registration, the Inquiry Panel concluded that, "placing restrictions on his practice, including a requirement of supervision, will be inadequate to ensure that Dr. Warraich practices safely and in conformity with the current standards of the profession."

The Inquiry Panel concluded that it was very unlikely that Dr. Warraich could be rehabilitated. It also concluded that given the diverse nature of the findings made against him, "this [was] not a case which the public good will be served by allowing Dr. Warraich to provide medical services to the public." An important factor underpinning the Inquiry Panel's conclusion was the interplay between Dr. Warraich's deficiencies in practice and evidence of his lack of integrity.

In addition to cancellation, the Inquiry Panel ordered that Dr. Warraich pay to CPSM a fine of \$10,000 and partial costs of the investigation and hearing in the amount of \$90,000.

Integrity is essential to the ethical practice of medicine. This is reflected in CPSM's Code of Ethics. The Inquiry Panel's decision in this matter makes clear that significant displays of a lack of integrity will be treated seriously. Importantly, the Inquiry Panel recognized that in certain circumstances integrity issues may weigh against a member's remedial prospects.

As with numerous other CPSM Inquiry publications, the Inquiry Panel has again in this case made clear that record keeping skills are a core component of good care. The Inquiry Panel's decision emphasizes the fundamental importance of maintaining accurate and complete medical records in caring for patients. An inability to practice in conformity with record keeping standards, particularly after attempts at remedial intervention, raises significant patient safety concerns, and will be treated seriously by CPSM.

Unethical and inappropriate billing practices constitute a very serious issue of professionalism. Members of CPSM are considered stewards of limited public health resources and must use them prudently. Unethical and inappropriate billing practices have the result of depriving government funded health programs. Such conduct is an insult to honest physicians who make up the vast majority of the profession and to the trust that society places in the medical profession.

*Note that there are two other physicians named Dr. Warraich registered at CPSM.

** Note that this statement reflects the views of the Registrar of CPSM and must not be taken as a substitution for the Inquiry Panel's written reasons, which are available at the link below.

View the formal publication notice here.