

Summary

Dr. Daljit Singh Gill Suspension

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) has released the findings of the Inquiry Panel regarding disciplinary action against Dr. Daljit Singh Gill. Dr. Gill admitted to professional misconduct occurring between 2017 and 2022 and has accepted the consequences for his actions. <u>Click here to read the Inquiry Panel's full reasons, decision, and orders</u>.

In summary, the findings regarding Dr. Gill include:

- Widespread failure to adequately document his involvement in patient care.
- Delays in reviewing diagnostic results.
- Inappropriate prescribing practices, including delays in responding to refill requests.
- Unethical and inappropriate billing practices, including billing for services not provided.
- Professional misconduct respecting interactions with several patients.
- Attempts to mislead CPSM during an investigation of a patient complaint.

The Inquiry Panel found that Dr. Gill failed to send a referral for a patient (Patient 8) in October of 2017, leading to a complaint and an investigation that revealed he provided false and misleading information to the CPSM, including manipulating the patient record to appear as though the referral was sent.

Audits of Dr. Gill's practices that took place in the context of CPSM's investigation of Patient 8's complaint revealed widespread documentation issues, inappropriate use of billing codes, and failure to review diagnostic results in a timely manner. Dr. Gill agreed to practice conditions in September of 2020 while CPSM's review was ongoing.

Despite signing an undertaking to improve his practice management, Dr. Gill continued to breach conditions, failing to maintain up-to-date documentation and timely responses to diagnostic results. A follow-up audit and chart reviews performed through CPSM's Complaints and Investigations Department in the fall of 2022 revealed Dr. Gill was falling woefully short of documentation requirements for care delivered in his personal care home practice.

Dr. Gill admitted allegations regarding his prescription management and billing practices at the clinic where he practiced between January 2019 and July 2020. The investigation highlighted issues with his management of prescriptions for four specific patients: Patients 1, 2, 3, and 4. The investigation found that Dr. Gill frequently authorized only one-month refills for chronic medications, even for stable patients, causing unnecessary delays and confusion. He often failed to respond to pharmacy refill requests in a timely manner, leaving patients without necessary medications for extended periods. Furthermore, Dr. Gill submitted claims for family care conferences when no family member was present and billed Manitoba Health for multiple

communications with pharmacies based on single requests, modifying dates to create the appearance of separate requests.

The Inquiry Panel's decision addressed multiple patient complaints filed against Dr. Gill overtime for missed appointments, delays in prescription refills, and inappropriate communication, leading to further investigations (i.e., Patients 5, 6, 7 and 9).

Respecting Patient 9, Dr. Gill was found to have inappropriately involved a patient in a dispute he was having with his former practice location and another regulated healthcare professional, including by encouraging the patient to make a regulatory complaint. He did so after being advised against this behaviour by CPSM.

Based on his conduct considered cumulatively, Dr. Gill admitted to demonstrating an unwillingness or inability to adhere to CPSM's established professional standards, which are in place to ensure quality and ethical care for patients.

As a result of the admissions, the Inquiry Panel issued the following remedial and penalty orders:

- A six-month suspension from the practice of medicine.
- Practice conditions, including supervision, to address specific areas of concern.
- Mandatory remedial education to improve professional knowledge and skills.
- A monetary fine for breaches of professional standards.
- Responsibility for costs associated with the disciplinary process.
- Dr. Gill will also be referred to CPSM's Quality Assurance process for monitoring.

The Inquiry Panel remarked that Dr. Gill's misconduct and deficiencies are serious and concerning. Deficiencies in his prescribing and documentation put patients at risk. Inappropriate billing practices contributed to the financial burden on the publicly funded health care system. There have been serious compliance issues regarding remedial efforts to date. The Panel was particularly troubled by Dr. Gill's efforts to mislead his governing body.

The Inquiry Panel denounced Dr. Gill's conduct with the expectation it will serve as a deterrent to future misconduct. The orders have significant remedial and monitoring components. CPSM believes in a remedial approach to addressing physician misconduct where appropriate. This approach emphasizes education and improvement, with the goal of ensuring the physician can return to practice safely and effectively while maintaining the public's trust.

CPSM recognizes the trust patients place in their healthcare providers and remains steadfast in our mission to protect that trust through a rigorous commitment to and enforcement of professional standards.