



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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MEDIA RELEASE – March 20, 2015

College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia granted a permanent injunction for the unlawful practice of medicine

VANCOUVER, BC: On March 19, 2015, the BC Supreme Court granted an Order prohibiting Ms. Anita Fofie of Dermix Institute of Aesthetic Medicine at 1721 Davie Street, Vancouver, BC, from providing medical services she is not authorized to perform.

The activities of Ms. Fofie first came to the College's attention in 2012. Following a detailed investigation, the Supreme Court on January 27, 2015 permitted the College to enter the Dermix place of business and seize material confirming the unauthorized practice of medicine. The College executed the search the following day and seized boxes and vials of injectable medication including, abobotulinumtoxin A (Dysport®) and Restylane® (containing hyaluronic acid), syringes, needles. The College also seized documents which confirmed her unauthorized use of reserved titles, such as "doctor" and "physician."

In its March 19th Order, the Supreme Court unsealed the file and, in addition to prohibiting Ms. Fofie from engaging in the unauthorized practice of medicine, prevented her from using titles reserved for medical professionals and from expressing or implying that she is a registrant of, or associated with, the College. The Court also granted the College's request to publish the name and address of Ms. Fofie and Dermix for the purpose of alerting the public about her unauthorized practice of medicine as an unlicensed practitioner.

The College has retained the seized items relating to the practice of medicine and will ensure their safe and proper disposal.

After consulting with Vancouver Coastal Health, the College does not believe there are any public health or infection control concerns in this instance. However, anyone who sees an illegal practitioner puts themselves and their family at risk for bacterial and viral infections. There is no assurance that the practitioner is competent or qualified to provide treatment, or that the material and equipment used are safe.

The College recommends that any person who is treated by an illegal practitioner consult with their family physician to review the work done and the materials used. To verify the credentials and to ensure a physician is registered with the College, members of the public are encouraged to visit the online physician directory on the College's website at www.cpsbc.ca.

These situations serve to remind the public of the importance of seeing a regulated and licensed health professional. For more information on regulated health professionals, visit www.bchealthregulators.ca.

With these actions, the College is confident that the public interest has been served.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons regulates the practice of medicine under the authority of provincial law. All physicians who practise medicine in the province must be registrants of the College. The College's overriding interest is the protection and safety of patients. The role of the College is to ensure physicians meet expected standards of practice and conduct.

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