



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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*Serving the public through excellence and professionalism in medical practice*

### **MEDIA RELEASE – January 10, 2017**

## **College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia warns public of a potential health risk following a search and seizure of a home in Delta**

**VANCOUVER, BC:** On December 20, 2016, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia was granted an order by the BC Supreme Court to enter and search a residence located at 10519 Modesto Place in Delta, BC where the College had reason to believe that Ms. Zhuo (Sabrina) Li was operating a business under the name of Sabrina Permanent Make-up Studio Inc., and providing cosmetic medical services which she is not qualified or legally authorized to perform.

The order further allowed the College to seize all items believed to be used by Ms. Li in the unlicensed practice of medicine, which included boxes and vials of injectable medication including Bocouture® (botulinum toxin type A) and lidocaine hydrochloride (local anesthetic), prescription medication (ofloxacin eye drops), syringes, needles, suture forceps, surgical clamps, surgical scissors, scalpel blades, surgical markers, and receipts for financial transactions ranging from \$300 to \$5,000.

The investigators were not able to locate any evidence to suggest that the surgical instruments being used by Ms. Li were being properly sterilized by an autoclave (a high-pressure steam chamber used in hospitals and medical clinics to sterilize surgical equipment and instruments).

“Based on the findings, the College believes it is highly probable that Ms. Li was performing cosmetic surgery such as facial injections, eyelid lifts and facial implants, which are restricted activities that only qualified medical professionals are authorized to perform,” said Dr. Heidi Oetter, registrar and CEO.

“Under the *Health Professions Act*, the College is responsible for licensing physicians and regulating the medical profession. The College takes action against those who put the public at risk by practising medicine unlawfully. This is a very serious matter.”

The individual in this case is an unlicensed practitioner and is not a registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. The order temporarily restrains Ms. Li from providing any service that may be provided only by a registrant of the College, pending final resolution of the College’s case against her.

While the court file is sealed at this time, the order authorized the College to disclose evidence seized during its search to Fraser Health Authority for the purpose of conducting a public health risk assessment. Based on its review, Fraser Health Authority has recommended to the College that a warning be issued to all individuals who received surgical services from Ms. Li at Sabrina Permanent Make-up Studio Inc. The College is urging all such clients to seek clinical advice from a registered physician or nurse practitioner, and possibly undergo testing for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV.

**Note:** A positive test result may not confirm that an individual was infected at the premise; however, it does enable that individual to receive proper care and treatment from qualified medical and public health professionals.

At its next appearance before the BC Supreme Court, the College will be requesting that the sealing order be lifted. Until then, the College will not release additional information about its investigation.

Situations such as this 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](http://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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