



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – August 6, 2019

## Re: Physician-2019-b British Columbia

1. **Nature of action:** The Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (“the College”) conducted an investigation regarding the practice of a registrant, pursuant to section 33(4) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183.

The Inquiry Committee and the registrant have agreed to resolve all matters arising from the investigation by way of a Consent Agreement under section 37.1(3)(a) of the *Health Professions Act*.

2. **Effective date:** July 30, 2019
3. **Location of practice:** British Columbia
4. **Admission and acknowledgements:** The registrant has admitted and/or acknowledged the following:
  - (a) That they formed a personal and intimate relationship with a former patient, shortly after terminating the patient-physician relationship, and that such conduct constitutes professional misconduct.
5. **Disposition:** Following the authorization of a disciplinary citation pursuant to section 37 of the *Health Professions Act*, the registrant entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, wherein they have consented to the following terms, pursuant to section 39(2) of the *Health Professions Act*:
  - (a) A transfer from the Full – Family class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration;
  - (b) A formal reprimand;
  - (c) A suspension from the practice of medicine for six months (with three months stayed if terms and conditions are met);
  - (d) Completion of a multi-disciplinary assessment program;
  - (e) Participation in a course of assessment and counselling with a psychiatrist(s) and/or psychologist(s) approved by the College;
  - (f) Participation in continuing medical education and professional development in the areas of ethics and professionalism;

(g) Undertakings not to initiate or engage in personal relationships with patients or former patients;

(h) Compliance with any monitoring of their practice established and acceptable to the College.

6. **Rationale:** The Inquiry Committee was critical of the registrant's conduct, affirming that it is unethical to terminate a professional relationship to pursue a personal one. The committee noted the conduct was contrary to College standards and determined a disciplinary outcome was appropriate.

The committee weighed the various considerations pursuant to section 39.3(3)(a) of the *Health Professions Act* and considered non-nominal publication was necessary to protect the interests of a person affected by this matter.

*The College of Physicians and Surgeons is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice across the province.*

**Inquiries:**

Communications and Public Affairs

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