



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4
www.cpsbc.ca

Telephone: 604-733-7758
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)
Fax: 604-733-3503

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – February 27, 2023

Dr. HARRIS, Paul Michael

Duncan, BC

1. **Nature of action:** The Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) conducted an investigation into the conduct of Dr. Paul Michael Harris, pursuant to section 33(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183.

The Inquiry Committee and Dr. Harris 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:** February 24, 2023
3. **Name of registrant:** Dr. Paul Michael Harris
4. **Location of practice:** Duncan, BC
5. **Admission and acknowledgements:** Dr. Harris has admitted and/or acknowledged the following:
 - a. That, between October 2020 and April 2021, he engaged in unprofessional conduct by prescribing medication to an employee without documenting patient-physician encounters, and using non-conventional therapies, specifically hypnosis, outside of an office setting. In addition, he participated in the use of non-approved substances, specifically psilocybin and MDMA, which were administered by a non-physician as a form of therapy.
6. **Disposition:** Following the authorization of a disciplinary citation pursuant to section 37 of the *Health Professions Act*, Dr. Harris entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College, wherein he has consented to the following terms, pursuant to section 39(2) of the *Health Professions Act*:
 - a. Transfer from the Full – Specialty class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration;
 - b. A formal reprimand; and
 - c. Undertakings to:
 - i. comply with the College practice standard, *Treatment of Self, Family Members and Others Close to You* and not provide medical care or prescribe medication to staff or any person close to him;
 - ii. refrain from the use of non-conventional therapies, specifically hypnosis, outside of an office setting;

- iii. refrain from participating with employees in the use of non-approved substances, specifically the use of psilocybin and MDMA, outside of a research setting; and
 - iv. document all patient-physician encounters and maintain office medical records to the standard expected of physicians in British Columbia.
7. **Rationale:** The Inquiry Committee was critical of the registrant's conduct and noted that the conduct was contrary to the College practice standards, *Treatment of Self, Family Members and Others Close to You, Medical Records Documentation, and Complementary and Alternative Therapies*. The committee noted that by repeatedly contravening College practice standards, Dr. Harris placed the employee at risk, and therefore, a disciplinary outcome was appropriate.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia 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.

Inquiries:

Communications and Public Affairs

communications@cpsbc.ca