

DECISION 5

Dr. Louis Ong
1160 Adelaide St N
London, Ontario

ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

- Failed to maintain the standards of practice of the profession (para. 1).
- Recommended or provided an unnecessary dental service (para. 6).
- Treated without consent (para. 7).
- Made a representation about a treatment for which there is no generally accepted scientific or empirical basis (para. 13).
- Charged an excessive or unreasonable fee (para. 31).
- Submitted an account or charge for dental services that he knew or ought to have known was false or misleading (para. 33).
- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional, unethical conduct (para. 59).

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

- This matter originated from a patient complaint.
- Dr. Ong's pre-treatment investigations and diagnosis did not meet the standards of practice in respect of the complainant, resulting in the member's failure to recognize a combined periodontal-endodontic lesion.
- Dr. Ong then proceeded with unnecessary and inappropriate dental treatment, namely periolase therapy, where there is no generally accepted scientific or empirical evidence that periolase therapy could help regenerate vertical bone loss in the patient's clinical situation. Given the absence of an appropriate diagnosis and treatment plan options, the member did not obtain proper consent from the patient.

- The treatment performed was ineffective and caused the patient prolonged pain and suffering.
- The panel found that the fees charged were excessive and unreasonable considering the services performed and that the procedure codes used to bill for certain services were inappropriate and misleading.

DECISION

1. Finding

- The member pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to the above allegations.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand.
- Suspension of certificate of registration for 2 months (July 1 – August 31, 2013).
- Course in periodontics.
- Practice to be monitored for 24 months following completion of course.

3. Costs/Publication

- Costs awarded to the College in the amount of \$2,000.
- Member to pay monitoring costs.
- Pursuant to the legislation, publication of this matter includes the member's name and address.

4. Panel's Reasoning

- The penalty was a joint submission reached as a result of a pre-hearing conference.
- The panel accepted that the proposed penalty was within the appropriate range for misconduct of this nature.
- Dr. Ong fully cooperated in the disciplinary process and accepted responsibility.
- Dr. Ong stopped using the periolase treatment of his own volition and was in the process of making restitution to his patient.
- The panel considered each aspect of the penalty and was satisfied that the penalty satisfied the rationales of rehabilitation, deterrence of similar conduct by this member in the future and general deterrence of the profession at large.
- Most importantly, the panel was satisfied that the penalty protected the public interest.