
Discipline Summary

Dr. Ronald McClure
4030 Montrose Rd
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Hearing Date: May 15, 2018

Allegations of professional misconduct

Notice of Hearing #1

- Charged excessive or unreasonable fees
- Contravened a standard of practice or failed to maintain the standards of practice of the profession
- Failed to keep records as required
- Failed to reply appropriately or within a reasonable time to a written enquiry made by the College
- Signed a document that contained a false, misleading or improper statement
- Submitted a false or misleading account or charge
- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct

Notice of Hearing #2

- Contravened a standard of practice or failed to maintain the standards of practice of the profession
- Failed to keep records as required
- Failed to make reasonable attempts to collect a co-payment balance from patient(s) without the consent of third party payer
- Signed a document that contained a false, misleading or improper statement
- Submitted a false or misleading account or charge
- Treated without consent

Synopsis

Notice of Hearing #1

- This matter arose as a result of a patient complaint to the College about incomplete root canal therapies performed for the complainant and her mother, and the billings for those treatments which were false.
- Dr. McClure did not provide the patient records to the College as requested, or respond to the College's requests for the records. One patient's records were

collected through an appointment of investigator under section 75(1)(c) and a visit to Dr. McClure's office. At that time, Dr. McClure told the investigator that the other patient's records were lost.

- At the hearing, Dr. McClure pled guilty to:
 - performing inadequate root canal therapies and inadequate restorative treatments for these two patients;
 - charging for canals that were not obturated;
 - recordkeeping violations; and
 - failing to inform the patients of the inadequate treatment.

Notice of Hearing #2

- This matter arose as a result of a Registrar's investigation. The investigator obtained and reviewed records for 16 patients.
- The investigation revealed numerous deficiencies in Dr. McClure's dental treatment, consent, recordkeeping and billing practices.
- When reviewing this matter, the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports (ICR) Committee found the issues serious enough to impose an interim order that Dr. McClure must have his diagnosis and treatment plans, including relevant radiographs, reviewed and approved by a College-approved mentor before proceeding with any endodontic treatment or extractions. The ICR Committee panel also referred allegations of professional misconduct to the Discipline Committee.
- At the Discipline hearing, Dr. McClure pleaded guilty to allegations, including that he:
 - provided endodontic and restorative treatment to a number of patients that failed to meet the standards of practice;
 - submitted false and excessive insurance claims for treatment; and
 - did not properly obtain informed consent or maintain records.

Decision

1. Finding

The member pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to the above allegations of professional misconduct.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of certificate of registration for a period of six months (November 14, 2018 – May 13, 2019)
- Didactic course in endodontic diagnosis, treatment planning, restorability of teeth and referral protocols
- Didactic course in restorative dentistry, including diagnosis and treatment planning
- Recordkeeping course
- Informed consent course
- Ethics course
- Mentoring program in endodontic treatment and extractions – mentor to review and approve all treatment
- Practice to be monitored for 24 months following completion of courses

3. Costs

- Member to pay costs to the College in the amount \$10,000
- Member to pay for courses and monitoring

Panel's reasoning

- The penalty was a joint submission reached following a pre-hearing conference which the panel found to be appropriate.
- The panel was satisfied that a six month suspension, reprimand and publication of the proceedings will deter the member and send a clear message to the profession that misconduct of this magnitude will not be tolerated by the College.
- The terms, conditions and limitations, including extensive courses and mentoring, serve to protect the public and remediate the member, and will be followed by practice monitoring.

- The penalty was within the appropriate range and will adequately protect the public. While the conduct in this case was serious, the panel was also mindful that the member pled guilty and cooperated with the College to reach an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty, which was a mitigating factor.