
Discipline Summary

Dr. Zeljko Veselinovic
35 Sandwich St S
Amherstburg, Ontario

Hearing Date: October 4, 2019

Allegations of professional misconduct

- Signed or issued a certificate, report or similar document that contained an improper statement
- Submitted a false or misleading account or charge (withdrawn)
- Charged excessive or unreasonable fees (withdrawn)
- Recommended or provided an unnecessary dental service (withdrawn)

Synopsis

A Registrar's investigation was commenced after the College received information raising concerns about the dentist's billing practices, among other issues. The College investigator obtained and analyzed 30 patient charts. At the time of the hearing, the College was satisfied that any billing issues set out in the allegations in the Notice of Hearing were attributable to Dr. Veselinovic's deficient recordkeeping and lack of understanding of the proper use of billing codes, which he admitted to and agreed should be remediated.

Decision

1. Finding

Dr. Veselinovic pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to signing or issuing a certificate, report or similar document that he ought to have known contained an improper statement in respect of 19 patients (wording of original allegation was amended at the hearing).

The College sought to withdraw the remaining three allegations on consent and the panel agreed.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Course on Recordkeeping and billing, including use of billing codes
- Practice to be monitored for 24 months following completion of course

3. Costs

- Dr. Veselinovic to pay costs to the College in the amount of \$5,000
- Dr. Veselinovic to pay monitoring costs

Panel's reasoning

- Dr. Veselinovic admitted that he failed to keep accurate records and failed to properly code insurance claim forms. The instances of poor recordkeeping were limited, but concerning.
- The penalty was a joint submission reached as a result of a pre-hearing conference.
- The panel concluded that the jointly proposed penalty was appropriate in all the circumstances.
- The courses in recordkeeping and billing practices will rehabilitate Dr. Veselinovic.
- The professional misconduct was on the lower end of the spectrum and did not warrant a suspension.
- The mitigating factors included Dr. Veselinovic's cooperation with the College's investigation, willingness to correct his deficiencies, and his lack of prior appearances before the Discipline Committee.