
Discipline Summary

Dr. Maryam Saatian
6085 Yonge Street
North York, Ontario

Hearing Date: February 19, 2020

Allegations of professional misconduct

- Failed to keep records as required by the Regulations
- Falsified a record
- Charged to a patient, a lab fee that was more than the actual commercial lab fee incurred by the dentist
- Signed a certificate, report or similar document that contained a false, misleading or improper statement
- Submitted a false or misleading account or charge
- Disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct

Synopsis

- This matter arose from a complaint filed by a representative of Sun Life Financial regarding Dr. Saatian's insurance billing practices and possible fraud with respect to claim audits for five patients.
- The College's investigation identified recordkeeping violations in respect of all five patients, falsified records in respect of three patients, inappropriate insurance claims and billings in respect of all five patients, and unjustified treatment in respect of three patients.

Decision

1. Finding

Dr. Saatian pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to the above allegations of professional misconduct.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of certificate of registration for six months (February 19 – August 18, 2020)

- One-on-one course on ethics
- Course in recordkeeping
- Dr. Saatian must inform the College in advance of any change in employment, including return to private practice or change in compensation structure
- One-on-one course in financial recordkeeping and billing (to be taken in the event of change in employment/compensation structure)
- Practice to be monitored/chart reviews for 24 months following completion of courses

3. Costs

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

Panel's reasoning

- The penalty was reached as the result of a joint submission. Joint submissions should be accepted unless doing so would bring the administration of justice into disrepute or would otherwise be contrary to the public interest.
- The penalty was appropriate in all circumstances of this case.
- Specific and general deterrence are accomplished by the suspension of Dr. Saatian's certificate of registration (licence), publishing the proceedings on the College's website, and the reprimand before the Discipline Committee.
- Dr. Saatian must complete courses including recordkeeping and ethics.
- Remediation and public protection are also accomplished by practice monitoring.

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- Aggravating factors include the seriousness of the allegations, and that Dr. Saatian had been previously made aware by the College of improper insurance claims, in advance of the instances set out in the current matter.
 - Mitigating factors include Dr. Saatian's cooperation with the College, and lack of a previous history before the Discipline Committee.
 - Dr. Saatian's acceptance of a plea prevented a lengthy and costly hearing, and also demonstrated that she has a willingness and desire to be remediated.