



College of Pharmacists
of British Columbia

COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CITATION

(Section 37 of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 183)

TO: Alaa Mohssen Amara

[REDACTED]

Registration No. [REDACTED]

TAKE NOTICE that a Panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia (“CPBC”) will conduct a hearing into your conduct as a registrant under section 38 of the *Health Professions Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183 (the “Act”).

The hearing will be held at the offices of the CPBC, 1765 W 8th Ave #200, Vancouver, BC. If the hearing cannot be held in person due to the COVID19 pandemic, it will be via Video Conference. The hearing will be conducted on August 25, 2020, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

You are requested to attend the hearing and have the right to be represented by legal counsel and to submit evidence. However, if you fail to attend the hearing, the Panel is entitled to proceed with the hearing in your absence, and without further notice to you, may take any action that it is authorized to take under the Act.

The purpose of the hearing is to inquire into your conduct as follows:

1. Between July 2017 and February 2018, on multiple occasions, you were responsible for non-pharmacist staff at the Powell River Pharmacy (the “Pharmacy”) delivering [REDACTED]’s methadone prescriptions to the Texada Island Health Centre, on Texada Island.
2. In or about February 2018, you allowed [REDACTED], a patient on Opioid Agonist Treatment (“OAT”), to deliver methadone to [REDACTED].
3. You failed to ensure the security of methadone by allowing it to be delivered to [REDACTED] by a non-pharmacist.
4. You mislead a College investigator and the Inquiry Committee during the investigation by not providing accurate and truthful information regarding non-pharmacist methadone delivery.



5. Between December 2017 and February 2018, on multiple occasions, you dispensed [REDACTED]'s methadone contrary to the prescription in terms of quantity dispensed.
6. In or about February 2018, you failed to assess the competence of [REDACTED] prior to releasing his methadone prescription for a period of approximately twenty-five (25) days.
7. You altered [REDACTED]'s part-fill accountability log after the April 10, 2018 College inspection.
8. Between August 2017 and February 2018, on multiple occasions, you used an incorrect drug identification number on PharmaNet to process and dispense [REDACTED]'s methadone prescription for delivery
9. You caused or allowed multiple Methadone Maintenance Treatment ("MMT") prescriptions for [REDACTED] to be dispensed contrary to the applicable legislation and practice standards.
10. You failed to ensure that the required documentation for each of [REDACTED]'s MMT doses was completed and/or retained, including in relation to:
 - a. Deliveries made to Texada Island;
 - b. Physician notifications when [REDACTED] missed his dose at the Pharmacy; and
 - c. Part-fill accountability logs:
 - i. Multiple part-fill accountability logs were incomplete; and
 - ii. One part-fill accountability log was missing.
11. You caused or allowed the following prescriptions to be dispensed contrary to the applicable legislation and practice standards:
 - a. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]: the part-fill accountability log for [REDACTED] included the time frame from [REDACTED];
 - b. [REDACTED]: the prescription was written by one physician and was dispensed in another physician's name, and the pharmacist's initial is missing from the log for multiple dates in or about March 2018;
 - c. [REDACTED]: the patient's dose is not reflected on the log for April 1, 2018, the patient signed the log for two missed doses in or about April 2018, the physician was not faxed regarding the missed doses;



- d. [REDACTED]: the pharmacy did not clarify directions with the physician as to daily witnessing or carries;
- e. [REDACTED]: failure to initial the log on March 30, 2018;
- f. [REDACTED]: the quantity dispensed for March 30, 2018, April 2 and 6, 2018 is unclear;
- g. [REDACTED]: the Suboxone prescription was dispensed with inaccurate directions; and
- h. [REDACTED]: this is a verbal order for MMT.
12. From about July 1, 2017 until March 27, 2018, on multiple occasions, you
- a. backdated methadone prescriptions; and
- b. failed to review the patient's personal health information stored on PharmaNet prior to dispensing MMT.
13. During the pharmacy inspection on or about April 10, 2018, you were only able to produce one narcotic reconciliation from March 20, 2018. You failed to ensure that adequate narcotic counts and reconciliations were completed for the pharmacy.
14. During the pharmacy inspection on or about April 10, 2018, Schedule I, II, and III drugs and controlled drug substances were unsecured. You failed to ensure appropriate security and storage of all Schedule I, II, and III drugs and controlled substances.
15. You failed to reverse information in the PharmaNet database for a drug not released to a patient or the patient's representative, and you failed to record the reason for reversal no later than 30 days from the date of the original entry of the prescription information in PharmaNet, in relation to
- a. three (3) prescriptions in the Pharmacy's pick up drawers that were over thirty (30) days old that were identified during the pharmacy inspection on or about April 10, 2018; and
- b. two (2) prescriptions in the refrigerator that were over thirty (30) days old that were identified during the pharmacy inspection on or about April 10, 2018.
16. You were engaged in a conflict of interest and unethical behaviour by allowing OAT patients to work in the Pharmacy.



17. On or about June 29, 2017, February 1, 2018, February 2, 2018, and February 19, 2018, you caused or allowed prescriptions to be processed in the names of three pharmacists who were not working in the pharmacy on the dates during which their names appear on PharmaNet as the dispensing pharmacists.

18. You breached your undertakings made to the Inquiry Committee on July 17, 2012 (File 12-) and February 11, 2015 (File 13-).

It is alleged:

1. that you have not complied with the Act, the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act*, the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws or the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act* Bylaws;
2. that you have not complied with a standard imposed under the Act, including:
 - a. *HPA* Bylaws, Schedule A – Code of Ethics
 - b. *HPA* Bylaws, Schedule A – Conflict of Interest Standards
 - c. *HPA* Bylaws, Schedule F, Part 1 – Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice
3. that you have committed professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct; and, or in the alternative;
4. that you have incompetently practiced pharmacy.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that after a hearing under section 38 of the Act, the Panel of the Discipline Committee may make such determinations and orders under section 39 of the Act as it considers to be appropriate.

This Citation is issued at the direction of the Inquiry Committee of the CPBC under section 37 of the Act.

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Bob Nakagawa, Registrar

July 6, 2020

Date