

Dr. Mehdi HORRI

Council Decision

Date of CPSO Proceedings:	June 2, 2025
Charge(s) Amended:	N/A
Outcome Date:	September 26, 2025
Penalty Hearing:	Completed
Disposition:	Reprimand, Costs

Council took action pursuant to section 54.01 of The Medical Profession Act, 1981 based upon a finding of unprofessional conduct by the Ontario Physicians and Surgeons Discipline Tribunal ("OPSDT"). Details of the OPSDT decision are available on the CPSO public register. The OPSDT imposed a 12-month suspension, imposed a reprimand, and required Dr. Horri to pay costs related to the Ontario hearing.

After considering the information presented to the Council, the Council imposes the following penalties on Dr. Mehdi Horri pursuant to sections 54.01 and 54 of *The Medical Profession Act, 1981* (the "Act"):

- 1) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(e) of the Act, the Council hereby reprimands Dr. Horri which will be provided in written format.
- 2) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(i) of the Act, the Council directs Dr. Horri to pay the costs of and incidental to the investigation and hearing in the amount of \$2,370.00 to be paid within 30 days.
- 3) Pursuant to Section 54(2) of the Act, if Dr. Horri should fail to pay the costs as required by paragraph 2. Dr. Horri's licence shall be suspended until the costs are paid in full.
- 4) The Council reserves to itself the right to reconsider and amend any of the terms of this penalty order if requested to do so by Dr. Horri.

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IN THE MATTER OF DR. MEHDI HORRI, MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND SECTION 54.01 OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ACT, 1981

Ms. C. Kelsey O'Brien appearing on behalf of Dr. M. Horri Mr. Evan Thompson appearing on behalf of the Registrar's Office

Friday 26 September 2025

INTRODUCTION

On June 2, 2025, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario ("CPSO") Hearing Tribunal ("the Tribunal"), found Dr. Horri guilty of two charges of unprofessional conduct based on an Agreed Statement of Facts. One of those charges related to conduct for which he has not previously been sanctioned in Saskatchewan; the failure to promptly disclose pending criminal charges to the CPSO and including incorrect information on his 2024 renewal forms relating to whether he had been charged with any offences in the reporting period ("the failure to disclose.")

Dr. Horri failed to disclose to the CPSO two criminal brought against him in Saskatchewan. The first in September 2023 for dangerous driving, and another in March 2024 for sexual assault. Both criminal charges were later stayed.

The agreed facts before the CPSO Tribunal also included that Dr. Horri had previously been warned by the CPSO Registrar about the importance of full and complete disclosure in communication with the regulatory body.

The CPSO Tribunal imposed the following penalty:

- 1. The Tribunal requires the registrant to appear before the panel to be reprimanded.
- 2. The Tribunal directs the Registrar to suspend the registrant's certificate of registration for twelve (12) months commencing June 3, 2025 at 12:01 a.m.
- 3. The Tribunal requires the registrant to pay the College costs in the amount of \$6,000 by July 1, 2025.

The 12-month suspension was based on a joint submission.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan ("CPSS") has the discretion to impose penalty on a registrant based on findings of unprofessional conduct made by another regulator under section 54.01 of *The Medical Profession Act*, 1981 (the "Act).

Section 54.01 of *The Medical Profession Act*, 1981 provides as follows:

Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

54.01(1) In this section, "external regulatory body" means a body that is responsible for licensing or regulating physicians, physician assistants or podiatric surgeons in a jurisdiction other than Saskatchewan.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the council may impose one or more of the penalties set out in section 54 on a person registered under this Act where, before or after registration under this Act:
 - (a) the person is found by an external regulatory body to have done or failed to have done any act or thing and, in the opinion of the council, that act or failure is unbecoming, improper, unprofessional or discreditable; or
 - (b) the person's licence, permit or other authorization to practise medicine or podiatric surgery or as a physician assistant, as the case may be, has been suspended, restricted or revoked by an external regulatory body.
 - (3) Before imposing a penalty pursuant to subsection (2), the council must:
 - (a) give the person registered under this Act an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) have evidence satisfactory to the council that the person registered under this Act is the person against whom the action described in clause (2)(a) or (b) was taken.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, the council may accept a certified copy of the record of the findings made or the action taken by an external regulatory body as proof, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, of the findings made or the action taken by that body, without proof of the signature of the person purporting to have signed on behalf of that body.

The issue before Council is whether is exercise its discretion to impose a penalty under section 54.01 of the Act, and if so, what is the appropriate penalty.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE'S POSITION

The Registrar's Office argues that CPSS Council should impose penalty; for reasons including that Dr. Horri has previously given an undertaking not to practise in Ontario, and so the imposition of the CPSO suspension does not directly affect his practice and does not have a meaningful effect.

The Registrar's Office does submit, however, that the 12-month suspension imposed by the CPSO Tribunal is significantly higher than an appropriate penalty that this Council would impose. This is, in part, because that penalty order also applied to the CPSS breaches for which Dr. Horri had already received a two-month suspension from the CPSS Council. The result is that not the entirety of the twelve months of suspension can be attributed to the failures to disclose criminal charges to the CPSO, which is the conduct at issue for potential penalty in Saskatchewan.

The Registrar's Office submits that the failure to make disclosure undermines the ability of the regulator to carry out its function to protect the public. Reference was made to the terms of the reprimand issued to Dr. Horri by the CPSO which states, in part:

"...on two separate occasions, you failed to report criminal charges to the CPSO and you provided an incomplete response on the 2024 CPSO Annual Renewal Questionnaire. Although both charges were ultimately stayed, this did not relieve you of your legal obligations to report to the CPSO. You agree, and we have found, that these acts constitute disgraceful, dishonorable, and unprofessional conduct.

Your behavior shows a clear lack of judgment and a troubling disregard for your regulatory responsibilities. By failing to comply with your undertaking and by repeatedly failing to comply with your reporting obligations, you have demonstrated disrespect toward the regulatory bodies charged with protecting the public. This undermines the integrity of the self-regulation system — a system that relies on honesty, accountability, and cooperation from its members."

The Registrar's Office submits that in situations involving a failure to disclose required information to a regulator, the most important of the *Camgoz* factors is specific and general deterrence. There is a significant amount of trust placed in regulated professionals to disclose required information fully and honestly, so that the regulator can fulfill its obligation to regulate the profession and protect the public. Where there is the potential for physicians to make calculated decisions about whether it is in their benefit to disclose such information, the penalty for failing to disclose must send the message that doing so will result in meaningful consequences.

The Registrar's Office's position is that a suspension in the range of 3 to 5 months and a reprimand the is within the appropriate range of penalty in these circumstances and cited the following decisions of this Council:

- 1. In 2024 Dr. Narinda Maree admitted unprofessional conduct by advising the College on three occasions that she was enrolled in the Mainpro+ program of the College of Family Physicians of Canada when that was not true. The penalty order included a suspension for three months, a requirement to complete an ethics course and a requirement to pay costs in the amount of \$1,710.
- 2. In Fall 2023, Council imposed penalty on Dr. Kristyn Insley who had provided false information on four renewals. When confronted by the College, she admitted immediately that she had given incorrect information and had done so intentionally. The false statements were about a conviction that she had received for impaired driving/refusal, which was also the subject of a separate charge of unprofessional conduct. Dr. Insley admitted the charges and received a suspension of three months.
- 3. In 2016, Dr. Alfred Ernst was disciplined for providing inaccurate information to the Health Authority when renewing his privileges. It appears that Council imposed penalty based upon his explanation that Dr. Ernst misunderstood the question asked of him and he had responded based upon the fact that he had not, at that time, been found guilty of the charge of unprofessional conduct. The penalty imposed by Council was a \$2,000 fine and costs.

The Registrar's Office also claims costs in the amount of \$3,060 for the work of in-house legal counsel at the rate of \$300 per hour for 10.2 hours as itemized in the Registrar's Office's written submissions.

DR. HORRI'S POSITION

The imposition of an additional penalty by CPSS is not necessary here and would be inappropriate given the severity of the penalty already imposed by CPSO and the specific nature of this misconduct. Dr. Horri admitted his past conduct in Ontario and accepted his penalty from the CPSO. However, if Council does choose to impose a penalty on Dr. Horri, an appropriate penalty would be a reprimand and requirement to complete education approved by Council.

Dr. Horri agrees with the facts as summarized in the Registrar's written submission but highlighted the following additional facts as mitigating the severity of the misconduct:

- 1. Dr. Horri was charged by Estevan police on September 16, 2023, for operating a conveyance in a manner dangerous to the public. He was released. In January 2024, CPSS reported Dr. Horri's charge to CPSO. In July 2024, that charge was stayed. Dr. Horri failed to proactively report that charge to CPSO, where the Health Professions Procedural Code mandates filing a report to the regulator "as soon as reasonably practicable" after receiving notice of a charge. Importantly, this is not a requirement in Saskatchewan, where Dr. Horri has been practicing for many years now, and there is no allegation that Dr. Horri improperly concealed or failed to report any information to CPSS. Rather, CPSS was fully informed of the circumstances throughout.
- 2. Dr. Horri was charged by Estevan police with sexual assault in March 2024. He was released. CPSS reported that charge to CPSO the same day. Dr. Horri did not proactively report that charge, but in April 2024, Dr. Horri completed a licensing questionnaire for CPSO in which he acknowledged that he had been charged with an offence in Estevan. He did not list the specific charges. On June 11, 2024, CPSO asked for details about this charge and the licensing questionnaire which Dr. Horri fully and adequately responded to on July 5, 2024. That charge was stayed in August 2024. Again, CPSS was fully informed of these matters throughout.

In this case, Dr. Horri's error was in not proactively reporting his charges to the CPSO, which is not a requirement in Saskatchewan, and was fully cooperative with the CPSS throughout this matter. Further, both charges were dropped entirely. The year long suspension, reprimand, and \$6,000.00 in costs in Ontario fully addresses the misconduct The severity of the Ontario penalty fulfills both purposes of specific and general deterrence.

Dr. Horri admitted the charges against him in Ontario and entered into an Agreed Statement on both Facts and Penalty. He has taken responsibility for his actions and accepted the CPSO penalty. This ought to be considered by Council as a mitigating factor

If Council chooses to impose a penalty Dr. Horri cites this Council's 2016 decision in the Dr. Ernst case (also cited by the Registrar). In that case the physician was disciplined for providing

inaccurate information to the Health Authority when renewing his privileges and his penalty included only a \$2,000 fine and costs. He distinguishes the other cases cited by the Registrar's Office on the basis that many of the cases involved repeated and intentional instances of dishonesty. Also, the penalty in some of the cases included a sanction for the criminal conviction as well.

In this case Dr. Horri's failure was to not proactively report, rather than making false statements to the College. The underlying criminal charges were stayed.

Dr. Horri asks that no costs award be made by the Council. His financial circumstances are such that he is unable to pay any significant costs award, and an award of costs would be unnecessarily and inappropriately punitive in nature.

DECISION OF COUNCIL

The Council of the CPSS decided to apply the principal of reciprocal discipline. Council agrees and supports the CPSO finding. Dr. Horri's failure to disclose his criminal charges to the CPSO was less than honest and unprofessional. Dr. Horri's behaviour showed both a lack of judgment and a disregard for his regulatory responsibilities. By failing to comply with his reporting obligations, he demonstrated disrespect toward the regulatory body charged with protecting the public.

Dr. Horri's disregard for the regulatory authority was evident in the proceedings before the CPSO. The agreed facts before the CPSO Tribunal also included that Dr. Horri had previously been warned by the CPSO Registrar about the importance of full and complete disclosure in communication with the regulatory body prior to his failure to report the criminal charges.

This behaviour undermines the integrity of regulatory bodies. As professionals, physicians are vested with the responsibility to self regulate. When physicians are dishonest by failing to report criminal charges, the public trust is eroded. To effectively self regulate, members must participate by being both honest and accountable to the public. Dr. Horri failed to ensure and maintain the publics trust by failing to disclose to the CPSO his criminal charges pending in Saskatchewan.

In Saskatchewan, Dr. Horri has shown a similar disregard. He has previously admitted to failing to comply with an undertaking he had given to the CPSS in 2018.

While he has been suspended from practice for one year by the CPSO, Dr. Horri had previously given an undertaking not to practise in Ontario, so the imposition of the CPSO suspension does not directly meaningfully affect his practice in either Saskatchewan or Ontario.

It is appropriate in these circumstances for the Council to exercise its discretion and impose a penalty on Dr. Horri both as a general and specific deterrent to this type of behaviour so as to ensure that the regulator can fulfill its obligation to regulate the profession and protect the public.

For the above reasons, Council decided that it is appropriate to impose a penalty pursuant to Section 54.01 of *The Medical Profession Act*, 1981.

As to the appropriate penalty, council is satisfied that a reprimand and payment of costs is in order. The misconduct is not as serious as in those cases in which a suspension was ordered. In those cases, the member had made false statements on renewal applications rather than a failure to report. The conduct in those cases was more deliberate and, in some instances, repetitive.

Council is satisfied that a reprimand plus costs is an appropriate penalty.

The Registrar's Office seeks costs of \$3,060.00 providing full indemnification for the in-house legal fees. Dr. Horri's legal counsel did not argue that the amount claimed was excessive.

Council is mindful that Dr. Horri is subject to a costs award in Ontario. Given the outcome of those proceedings, it is reasonable that he bears a portion of the costs in the amount of \$2,370.00. This is less than full indemnity and not so large to be punitive or to deter a member from raising a legitimate defence.

The Council of the CPSS approved the following resolution:

- 1) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(e) of the Act, the Council hereby reprimands Dr. Horri in written format.
- 2) Pursuant to Section 54(1)(i) of the Act, the Council directs Dr. Horri to pay the costs of and incidental to the investigation and hearing in the amount of \$2,370.00 to be paid within 30 days.
- 3) Pursuant to Section 54(2) of the Act, if Dr. Horri should fail to pay the costs as required by paragraph 2, Dr. Horri s license shall be suspended until the costs are paid in full.
- 4) The Council reserves to itself the right to reconsider and amend any of the terms of this penalty order if requested to do so by Dr. Horri.

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Saskatchewan: 29 November 2025