

CPSA Statement: Queen Elizabeth II Hospital

Date: July 3, 2020

The [incident](#) that occurred at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie is both alarming and concerning to physicians and Albertans. While the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) cannot speak to the specifics of this situation that occurred at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital, CPSA can confirm concerns of this nature are taken very seriously and are investigated thoroughly.

CPSA is given the privilege of regulating physicians under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). CPSA is bound by the HPA and is required to operate under the rules outlined in the HPA. Those rules do not allow a medical regulator to speak about any ongoing complaint, confirm if a complaint has been opened or share the details of an active investigation.

All physicians deserve to work in safe environments. From CPSA's perspective, any type of racism or discrimination is considered unprofessional conduct and is simply not acceptable.

Although CPSA is bound by the HPA and cannot speak to specifics of this or any potential complaint or investigation, we want to share some of the key factors of our complaints process with physicians and Albertans:

- Although it's not common, in rare cases the investigation of complex complaints can take a number of years. It's compulsory for CPSA to speak to all involved parties and obtain sufficient information to determine if a physician can be charged with unprofessional conduct.
- If sufficient evidence is found, the case proceeds to a hearing, at which point the process becomes public.

Although CPSA cannot share specific information about this situation, we want Albertans and physicians to know we will not tolerate any type of racist behaviour.

CPSA is committed to using this opportunity to look at what role we can play in addressing the issue of systemic racism in our healthcare system.

Dr. Scott McLeod
CPSA Registrar

Please send any questions to: info@cpsa.ab.ca