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**June 16, 2020**

### **Calgary physician sanctioned by CPSA for personal relationship with a patient**

**Edmonton, AB** – After entering into an inappropriate (sexual) relationship with a patient, Dr. Moises Lasaleta, a General Practitioner from Calgary, was sanctioned by a CPSA hearing tribunal for unprofessional conduct.

Dr. Lasaleta admitted to the tribunal that in 2016, he entered into a personal relationship with a patient to whom he'd been providing care since 2013. He did so without ending their physician/patient relationship as required by CPSA's standards of practice, and failed to maintain appropriate boundaries, which are important given the inherent power imbalance between physicians and their patients.

Dr. Lasaleta is not currently working as a physician, having his registration and practice permit cancelled in 2018 for failing to renew his practice permit.

Sanctions under Bill 21, *An Act to Protect Patients*, do not apply to this case as it predates the change in legislation. The hearing tribunal accepted Dr. Lasaleta's admission of unprofessional conduct and ordered the following:

- If Dr. Lasaleta is issued a practice permit in the future, it will be suspended for 12 months. The suspension will be considered served due to the time he has been out of practice.
- Before he is issued a practice permit, Dr. Lasaleta must (at his own cost) complete an assessment to determine whether he is fit to return to practice. If the assessment finds him unfit to practise medicine, he will not be reinstated.
- Dr. Lasaleta must also complete additional treatments recommended in the assessment, to the satisfaction of CPSA's Complaints Director.
- If Dr. Lasaleta's practice permit is reinstated, it will include any practice conditions put in place by CPSA, in addition to any conditions recommended by the above-mentioned assessment.
- If there is any disagreement between Dr. Lasaleta and CPSA over practice conditions, or whether assessment and treatment requirements have been met, final determination will be made by the hearing tribunal.
- Dr. Lasaleta is responsible for all costs associated with the investigation and hearing (totalling \$12,731.70), as well as future costs for monitoring of any practice conditions.

#### **Resources:**

[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision](#)

[Media release: Oct. 10, 2018](#)

#### **Media Inquiries:**

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*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the regulator for all physicians and surgeons in the province and is governed by the Health Professions Act. Our role is to protect the public by issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria, hold Alberta physicians to ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.*

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