



# Summary of Adjudication Tribunal Decision

**IN THE MATTER OF: Dr. Zaira Azher, Family Medicine**

**Practice address: Eastgate Family Practice, St. John's, NL**

An Adjudication Tribunal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador has found Dr. Zaira Azher guilty of professional misconduct in relation to two complaints filed by the Registrar of the College.

The Tribunal's written decision was released on December 11, 2024.

The Tribunal accepted an agreed statement of facts that was jointly prepared by the College and Dr. Azher. The dates, locations, and a brief description of the conduct of Dr. Azher that was found to be deserving of sanction is as follows:

In late 2021, a Patient filed an allegation against Dr. Azher. In her written response to the allegation, Dr. Azher quoted a passage from the Patient's medical record in support of her response to the allegation. In the same written response, Dr. Azher stated that "I have no specific recollection of my treatment discussions with [Patient] in late 2018 and early 2019. As such, I am relying on what is documented in my medical records for that time period."

As part of the investigation into the Patient's allegation, the College's investigator obtained an audit history listing every access to the Patient's medical record, including the time, date, author, and content of any amendments to the medical record. The audit history indicated that Dr. Azher had amended the Patient's medical record after receiving notice of the Patient's complaint. The amendments included adding, deleting, and replacing text from the original medical record.

The Tribunal accepted Dr. Azher's pleas of guilty of professional misconduct in respect of the complaints. In these pleas, Dr. Azher agreed that she:

1. amended a Patient's medical records to remove, delete, erase, or render illegible each previously existing record, without retaining any indication of the previously existing records or the nature and date of the amendments; and
2. made a misrepresentation to the College when she provided altered medical records in response to the Patient's allegation without advising the College that the medical records had been altered by her, and by advising the College that she relied on the truth and accuracy of the medical records in her response to the Patient's allegation.

The Tribunal accepted a submission for sanctions that was jointly prepared by the College and Dr. Azher. It then ordered that:

1. Dr. Azher is reprimanded by the Tribunal for her conduct.
2. Dr. Azher will serve a period of suspension of her medical license for a duration of one month. The suspension will take place within three months of the date of the Tribunal's order.
3. Dr. Azher is required to satisfactorily complete continuing professional development, which is satisfactory to the Registrar, at her own expense, on the following topics:
  - 1) Medical record-keeping; and
  - 2) Professional ethics.
4. Dr. Azher shall pay the costs of the College in relation to this matter in keeping with the College's Tariff of Costs.
5. The decision or order of the Tribunal will be published. Publication will take place in the forms and locations set out in the *Medical Act, 2011* and in the College By-Laws.

Tanis Adey, MD  
CEO & Registrar, CPSNL  
January 13, 2025