



Newfoundland & Labrador Pharmacy Board

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The Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board protects the people of the province by governing the profession of pharmacy to ensure quality and ethical care.

Newfoundland & Labrador Pharmacy Board Summary of Adjudication Tribunal Decision

On June 20, 2017, a hearing of the Adjudication Tribunal of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board (the "Board") was held in the matter of a Complaint against pharmacist Douglas Walsh, registration number 82-470 (the "Respondent"), former Pharmacist at Shoppers Drug Mart, 390 Topsail Road, St. John's.

At the hearing, the Adjudication Tribunal considered and accepted an Admission Statement by the Respondent, an Agreed Statement of Facts, and a Joint Submission on disciplinary measures, all of which were agreed to by the Respondent and the Registrar of the Board.

In the Agreed Statement of Facts, the Respondent acknowledged that, between 2008 and 2015 at the above-noted Shoppers Drug Mart, he created 14 false patient profiles to obtain 629 false prescriptions for medications. The medications he obtained in this manner were all paid for and were for personal use. There is no indication that any of the medications were distributed to anyone other than the Respondent.

Once his activities were discovered, the Respondent was fully-cooperative with the Board. He had voluntarily resigned from practice as a Pharmacist in December 2015, prior to the Board's involvement, and expressed his intention not to practice again in the future. In the Admission Statement, the Respondent pleaded guilty and admitted that his actions violated section 35(c) of the Pharmacy Act, 2012 (the "Act"), By-Laws 94(a), (e), (g), (h), (l), (m), (p), and (q) of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board Bylaws, sections 6.1 and 6.3 of the Code of Ethics adopted by the Board, and section 3.2 of the Standards of Pharmacy Operation – Community Pharmacy adopted by the Board.

The Adjudication Tribunal accepted the Respondent's guilty plea and the Joint Submission on Penalty and ordered as follows:

- (1) The Respondent's certificate of registration as a Pharmacist shall remain inactive until such time as he satisfies the Board that he is able to practice pharmacy in a safe and professional manner, having regard to the circumstances of this matter, and in keeping with all applicable legislation, By-Laws, and Standards of Pharmacy Operation and Practice;
- (2) The Respondent shall be permitted to re-register as a pharmacist under the Act subject to the Act, Regulations and By-Laws, and all of the following conditions:
 - (i) The Respondent will not be registered as a Pharmacist and shall not return to practice in a patient care setting until he has produced from a physician of the Board's choosing acceptable certification in writing that he is medically fit to perform the duties required of a pharmacist practicing in a patient care setting;
 - (ii) Upon any future re-registration, the Respondent is prohibited from being a Pharmacist-in-Charge as defined in the Act for a period of five years or such other time as the Board may permit; and
 - (iii) Upon any future re-registration, the Respondent is prohibited from practicing as a sole practitioner in a licensed pharmacy and will be required to practice with another registrant of the Board, until such time as the Board may permit.

Margot Priddle

Margot Priddle, R. Ph., B.Comm.

Registrar

July 24, 2017