



Statement from the Registrar

Dr. Emmett Elves Censure

Some details underlying this censure have been removed or anonymized to avoid identifying information about third parties.

CPSM's Investigation Committee has censured Dr. Emmett Elves for the care he provided to Patient A, aged 12, during a visit in 2022. Dr. Elves was Patient A's pediatrician at the time. A Censure is a formal disciplinary record that may be considered in the future to determine action to be taken if the physician finds themselves the subject of a complaint investigation or Inquiry Panel.

Dr. Elves displayed poor judgment during the encounter by not maintaining appropriate professional boundaries and failing to respect the patient's privacy during a testicular examination.

Summary

In the summer of 2022, Patient A sought care from Dr. Elves and attended an appointment with a parent.

Dr. Elves conducted a testicular examination without providing an explanation of the purpose of the examination and without ensuring that he had obtained consent from either Patient A or his mother, who was present in the examination room during the visit.

Specifically, Dr. Elves:

- did not appropriately cover or drape Patient A during the examination
- did not wear gloves at the time he performed the examination
- did not respect Patient A's dignity in the manner he conducted the examination
- did not document in Patient A's medical record that he conducted a testicular examination or the results

Consequences

At CPSM's request, Dr. Elves voluntarily signed an undertaking that imposed conditions on his practice while the matter was being investigated, which was made public on his physician profile. The conditions included chaperone requirements, signage requirements, and restrictions on the circumstances surrounding Dr. Elves performing genital examinations.

On May 9, the Investigation Committee directed that Dr. Elves be formally disciplined by way of a censure and that a description of the circumstances that led to the censure be made available to the public. He was also ordered to pay the costs of the investigation in the amount of \$4020.00

Dr. Elves is permanently retiring from practicing medicine in June 2023 and signed an undertaking agreeing to refrain from practicing medicine in Manitoba or any other jurisdiction. He also agreed never to re-apply for licensure to practice medicine following his retirement. He will continue to be subject to terms and conditions on his practice until he retires on June 30, 2023.

[View the publication for more details.](#)

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It is essential for physicians to approach examinations with the utmost sensitivity, respect, and professionalism. Testicular and other genital examinations should be conducted in a manner that prioritizes patient comfort, privacy, and well-being at the forefront, this should never be disregarded during interactions with young patients. For adolescent patients, it is particularly important to communicate clearly and considerately so that they understand the reasons for the examination and what it will entail before they can agree to the examination. In failing to ensure the patient was aware of, understood, and provided consent for the examination, Dr. Elves failed to meet the standard of the profession.

Developing a trusting and respectful environment, obtaining informed consent, and respecting patient dignity is key to providing optimal care during these sensitive examinations. Physicians must recognize that being a good communicator is a core clinical skill and that excellent communication skills can foster patient satisfaction, adherence, and improved clinical outcomes.

This also highlights the implications of inadequate record-keeping. Physicians are required to document the care provided accurately and thoroughly. This is an essential component of good care. The records should meet the standards of the profession and those set in the CPSM Standards of Practice of Medicine.