

## **Notice of Reprimand**

**Dr. Abdulrahim Alawashez**

**Halifax, Nova Scotia**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia hereby gives notice that on November 22, 2010, pursuant to Section 53 (12) of the *Medical Act*, Dr. Abdulrahim Alawashez of Halifax, Nova Scotia consented to a reprimand issued by an Investigation Committee of the College.

Based on information provided by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program, the Committee found that Dr. Alawashez wrote prescriptions for monitored drugs on a prescription pad that was issued to another physician, and that he signed the prescriptions using the name of the other physician.

Dr. Alawashez admitted that on December 22 and 23, 2009, he wrote six prescriptions for Dilaudid and signed the prescriptions using the name of the other physician.

The Committee took into consideration the following circumstances:

1. That Dr. Alawashez was relatively unfamiliar with the triplicate pad prescription system;
2. That he was working his first day as a locum in a totally new environment (a non-teaching hospital);
3. That, prior to writing the prescriptions, he sought out colleagues to write prescriptions for the patients
4. That he was naïve respecting the consequences of writing these prescriptions, and at no time tried to hide his actions.

The Committee had serious concerns with his conduct of writing prescriptions for narcotics and signing the prescriptions with the name of another physician. As a result of a prescription he issued, a patient was detained and questioned by police at a pharmacy on December 23, 2009. The Committee considered his behavior inappropriate and a serious error of judgment.