

Notice Of Reprimand

**Dr. Richard Stern, Registration # 6053
Kentville, Nova Scotia**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia hereby gives notice that on February 21, 2006 pursuant to Section 53(12) of the *Medical Act*, Dr. Richard Stern of Kentville, NS has consented to a reprimand issued by the Investigation Committee of the College.

The Committee found Dr. Stern's initial assessment and management of patient "X's" myocardial infarction appropriate, however the Committee found that Dr. Stern's care following patient "X's" admission to the ICU was deficient in the following areas:

1. Lack of documentation:

- the Committee found Dr. Stern's ICU charting to be generally poor but particularly noted the absence of written notes from 0820-1130 on December 13, 2004;
- the absence of documentation from Dr. Stern's 0815 visit to patient "X" on December 13, 2004; and
- the lack of detailed notes including findings and some management plan relating to Dr. Stern's 1130 visit December 13 2004.

2. Failure of timely attendance to a critically ill patient:

- Between the hours of 0815 to 1105 there was no documentation of Dr. Stern's personal attendance to this patient.

3. Lack of response to persistent hypotension:

- from 2200 hrs on December 12 2004 onwards patient "X" blood pressure was not recorded as greater than 85 mm hg systolic;
- from 0900 to patient "X" cardiac arrest at 1503 hrs there was no recorded systolic blood pressure greater than 70mm hg;
- no evidence of a fluid challenge to address the persistent hypotension or oliguria; and
- no use of invasive monitoring such as central venous pressure monitoring, arterial cannulation, or pulmonary artery catheter.

4. Lack of response to persistent oliguria.

- The committee found that Dr. Stern's response to low urinary output on December 12th and 13th, 2004 to be deficient.

The Committee noted that Ramipril and Bisoprolol were reduced at 1130 December 13, 2004 but could not find evidence of more aggressive diagnostic or therapeutic measures.

The Committee's decision constitutes a finding of professional misconduct/professional incompetence that will be entered on Dr. Stern's formal discipline record. Dr. Stern has been informed that the public will be notified of this decision.

Date: March 20, 2006