



**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION**

In the matter of

Complaint No. PF. 8-1968/2021-DC/PMC

Mr. Muhammad Afzal Vs. Dr. Iqra Iftikhar

Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai	Chairman
Professor Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh	Member
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Expert of Gynaecology	

*Present:*

Dr. Iqra Iftikhar (68705-P)	Respondent
Hearing dated	21.11.2022

**I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND:**

1. Mr. Muhammad Afzal (the "Complainant") filed a complaint on 01.07.2021 against Dr. Iqra Iftikhar (the "Respondent") before the Disciplinary Committee of Pakistan Medical Commission.

Brief facts of the complaint are:

- a) *The patient (Complainant's wife); owed to her being suffering from uterus pain was taken to Sughran Mushtaq Hospital, Sialkot (the "Hospital") on 16.06.2021.*
- b) *The Respondent and her husband decided to conduct an operation and informed the attendants that operative procedure was essential for the patient's life. Rs. 50,000 were paid at the Hospital and the operation was performed, however, the patient's condition was disarranged. Respondent and her husband*

*gave false statements pertaining to the patients' health, post-operation. On desperate condition of patient, she was forcefully discharged on 17.06.2021.*

- c) *Complainant took patient in critical condition to Civil Hospital, Sialkot where the doctors observed the patient and took her for immediate operation. Later, it was informed to Complainant that due to negligence and carelessness at the Hospital, the large intestine of the patient has been cut from two places. The patient is still at the Civil Hospital for her treatment.*
- d) *The Complainant requested that strict disciplinary action should be taken against the doctors for their criminal medical negligence and carelessness.*

## II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO RESPONDENT:

2. In view of the allegations leveled in the complaint Show Cause Notice dated 17.10.2021 was issued to Respondent, Dr. Iqra Iftikhar mentioning the allegations in the following terms:

“...

**4. WHEREAS**, in terms of Complaint, it has been alleged that, Complainant brought his wife Ms. Sumaira Kausar (the ‘Patient’) to your hospital on 16th June, 2021, where you were her treating doctor. Immediate surgery (Laparotomy) was planned/performed for uterine perforation on the same day after getting an amount of PKR. 50,000/-, and the patient was unstable so was discharged/ referred to tertiary care hospital for further management on the very next day i.e. 17th June, 2021, and

**5. WHEREAS**, in terms of Complaint, it has been alleged that, upon reaching to Allama Iqbal memorial Hospital, Sialkot on 17th June, 2021, the patient was in a state of shock and diagnosed as case of intestinal perforation. Exploratory laparotomy (ileostomy/ colostomy) was done on 18th June, 2021 and was further managed accordingly; and ...”

## III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT, DR. IQRA IFTIKHAR

3. The Respondent, Dr. Iqra Iftikhar submitted her reply to the Notice through her Counsel on 08.11.2021 wherein she contended that:
  - a) *The Patient underwent H/O D & C (induced Abortion) at home by Dai (Najma) at Gestational Amenorrhea of 3 months. Subsequently, patient developed C/O Nausea, vomiting, Abdominal Pain,*

*Abdominal distention and shortness of breath; regarding which the family informed Dai Najma but she reassured them.*

- b) *On worsening of Patient's condition, she was taken to a local hospital where medication was advised and patient was sent home. The very next day, in deteriorated condition, patient was taken to another Hospital, where she remained admitted whole night and intravenous medications were given.*
- c) *Next day, patient was referred for ultrasound, done at Alpha Diagnostic Centre, Sialkot by Dr. Najeeb Khawaja and family was counseled about critical condition of patient and life-threatening issue (Uterine Perforation due to Dai handling; leading to hemoperitoneum) and thus they referred the patient to hospital for emergency surgical intervention.*
- d) *On 16.06.2021, patient was presented to the Respondent at the Hospital, in state of Shock with IV line placed on right hand and multiple pricks and bruises on both upper limbs;*
- e) *Our first observations at the Hospital were:*
  - i. *Patient was critically sick, her peripheral pulses were absent, she was having cold and clammy skin;*
  - ii. *Patient's blood pressure was un-recordable, she was having respiratory distress and was unable to utter even a single word and unable to lay on bed;*
  - iii. *Patient having marked pallor; her abdomen was severely tender and distended;*
- f) *Patient was resuscitated on emergency basis and was given oxygen, IV-line fluids, catheterization was done and blood was arranged (non-donor basis). Patient's vital monitoring and labs were done. High risk consent was taken and General Surgeon and Anesthetist were informed.*
- g) *Family was counseled about the patient's critical condition and thus urgent need of surgical intervention to save her life. They were informed of all these complications happened due to Dai handling (uterine perforation, Hemoperitoneum).*
- h) *Respondent along with the team performed the interventive surgery where:*
  - i. *1 Liter pus mixed Blood was drained;*
  - ii. *2 Rents were seen in anterior and posterior uterine walls respectively;*
  - iii. *Uterine walls rents were stitched, Homeostasis secured;*
  - iv. *Cavity washed with 1-liter Normal saline. > 2 drains were placed.*
  - v. *Abdomen was closed in reverse and ASD was done.*
- i) *We were in contact with surgeon throughout the procedure but he was unable to reach on time due to some problem. Post operatively monitoring was done, Patient remained stable whole night and blood was transfused in the morning. Drain output was observed and surgeon was informed, who visited the patient and advised to refer the patient to teaching hospital for further evaluation and management.*





j) *In conclusion, patient was Dai handled who did D&C, leading to uterine perforation leading to hemoperitoneum. Patient was neglected and presented to me in state of shock. We did our best to save the life of the patient and also timely referred the patient to tertiary care hospital for further management.*

#### **IV. REJOINDER OF THE COMPLAINANT**

4. An affidavit dated 08.11.2021 was submitted by the Complainant for withdrawal of his complaint, as per a compromise achieved between the two parties.
5. The Complainant was informed vide office letter dated 11.11.2021 that it's the sole prerogative of the Disciplinary Committee to allow or disallow any request for withdrawal of complaint. Succeedingly, the reply received from the Respondent, Dr. Iqra Iftikhar was forwarded to Complainant, with directions to submit his rejoinder, however no rejoinder has been received.

#### **V. HEARING**

6. After completion of pleadings, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 21.11.2022. Notices dated 14.11.2022 were issued to the Complainant and Respondent, Dr. Iqra Iftikhar directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 21.11.2022.
7. On the date of hearing the Respondent, Dr. Iqra Iftikhar was present in person, however, the Complainant was not in attendance.
8. The Respondent during the hearing reiterated the facts presented in her reply to the Show Cause Notice issued by the Commission and stated that the patient was presented to her in a critical condition, with breathlessness and infection, and she solely performed her job and attempted her best efforts to save the life of the patient. Owing to her condition, the patient was referred to another hospital.

9. The Respondent doctor further stated that the addressed facts have been admitted by the complainant, following which the Complainant has agreed to withdraw his Complaint.

## VI. EXPERT OPINION

10. A Consultant gynecologist was appointed as Expert to assist the Disciplinary Committee in this matter. The Expert opined as under:

“


- (i) Patient Sumaira Kausar had D&C for induced abortion at home by Dai at 3 months of gestation.
- (ii) D&C has high risk of uterine injury, injury to bowel, infection (sepsis) and haemorrhage.
- (iii) Patient presented with H/O D&C procedure 2 days prior to her admission on 16.06.21 at 2.30 pm at Sughran Mushtaq Hospital with I/V line already placed, and her clinical condition shows barely that she was in shock.
- (iv) Emergency surgery was performed by Dr. Iqra Iftikhar who is certified with FCPS Obs/gynae. Surgeon secured haemostasis, repaired uterus, placed surgical drain and referred patient to teaching hospital for further evaluation.
- (v) Further, Colostomy was done in Tertiary center and life of patient was saved.
- (vi) No evidence of negligence by respondent & timely referral.”

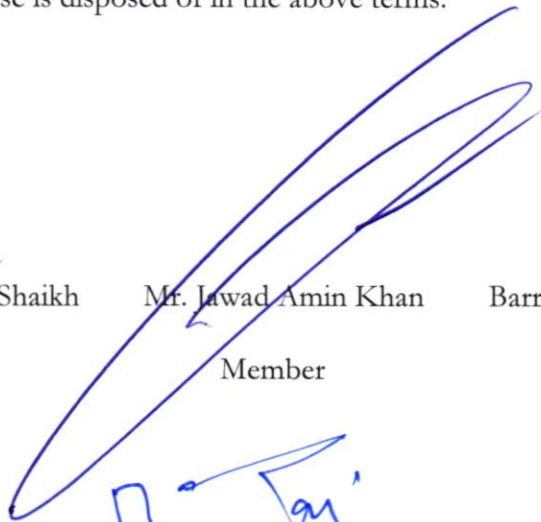
## VII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

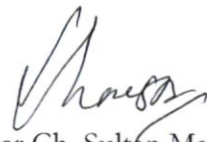
11. It is observed in this case that a compromise has been reached between the parties which has led to submission of a letter for withdrawal of complaint by the Complainant. It is pertinent to mention here that it is the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee to accept the withdrawal or proceed with the complaint if the Committee identifies a professional negligence centering the case, to ensure good medical practices, as the PMC is the regulator of medical profession. We wish to highlight, the relevant regulation of the PMC (Enforcement) Regulations 2021, which mentions that:

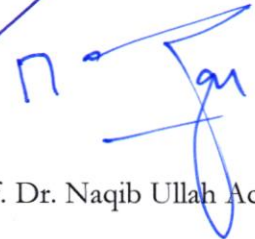
“... **10. Withdrawal of Complaint.** - The Disciplinary Committee may permit the withdrawal of a complaint at any stage of the proceeding or may for reasons to be recorded refuse a withdrawal and proceed with the complaint in the absence of the complainant....

12. The Committee after perusing the record has found that the possibility of Dai mis-handling the patient cannot be ruled out; as the Dai was the initial responder, after which the patient's condition deteriorated and she was brought to the Hospital for management.
13. The Disciplinary Committee has perused the relevant record, submission of the Respondent, and the expert opinion in the instant Complaint and finds no evidence of the Respondent acting negligently, in treating the patient. Furthermore, the Disciplinary Committee accepts the compromise reached between the parties.
14. Accordingly, the instant case is disposed of in the above terms.

  
Prof. Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh  
Member

  
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan  
Member

  
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor  
Secretary

  
Prof. Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai  
Chairman

21/11 December, 2022