



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

In the matter of

Complaint No. PF. 8-1821/2019-Legal-DC

Mr. Abdul Wahab Gabol Vs. Dr. Farzana Adnan & Dr. Abdul Hameed

Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai	Chairman
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Expert of Medicine	

*Present:*

Mr. Abdul Wahab Gabol	Complainant
Dr. Farzana Adnan (30449-S)	Respondent No. 1
Dr. Abdul Hameed (64936-S)	Respondent No. 2
Hearing dated	26.10.2022

**I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND:**

1. Mr. Abdul Wahab Gabol (the "Complainant") filed a Complaint on 08.05.2019 against Dr. Farzana Adnan (the "Respondent No. 1") and Dr. Abdul Hameed Sheikh (the "Respondent No. 2") working at Liaquat National Hospital, Karachi (the "Hospital"). Brief facts of the complaint are that:

- a) *The patient (brother of the complainant) was diabetic patient and was taken to emergency at the Hospital where he had a dialysis after medical tests. The Respondent No. 1 advised follow-ups; however, further dialysis was advised and the patient was admitted in hospital. The mishandling in passing DL (canola) in patient's neck resulted in swelling and pain.*

- b) Later, Respondent No.2 attended the patient to HDU and pipe was passed inside neck to secure patient's breathing (consented). Then, patient was shifted to ICU and put on ventilator. Patient began experiencing fits and upon query, Respondents stated thyroid issue who later changed their statement to brain injury and blood infection.
- c) Patient remained on ventilator till 16.04.2019 when Respondent no.1 told that patient is at end and Complainant should give consent for removal of ventilator of patient. Ultimately, consent was given and the patient expired on 17.04.2019. The patient's death has resulted due to the negligence and unprofessional conduct and incorrect diagnosis of Respondents.

## II. NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

2. In view of the allegations leveled in the Complaint, Notice(s) dated 29.05.2019 were issued to the Respondent doctors, directing them to submit comments, record of the patient along with the copy of his registration certificates.

## III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT NO.1, DR. FARZANA ADNAN

3. Respondent No. 1, Dr. Farzana Adnan submitted her reply to Show Cause Notice on 01.07.2019 through Administration of the Hospital, wherein she stated that:
- a) Patient got admitted on 15.03.2019 electively for hemodialysis, temporary access placement and workup for AV fistula. In the night between 15.03.2019 and 16.03.2019, patient got line complication of hematoma which was dealt by nephrology team as per protocol and ENT was taken on board who advised for elective intubation to secure airway. Patient was intubated, airway was secured and later was extubated on 21.03.2019. Patient's repeat ultrasound neck revealed resolved hematoma done on 23.03.2019. Patient unluckily had line complication but it is well known and documented worldwide, that this can be a human error.
- b) The intubation consent was signed by the family after Respondent No. 3 counseled them about center line complication being which can be hematoma and infection but probably the family members could not understand it properly.
- c) Attendant came to my OPD and complained about Respondent No. 3 for which he was called and inquired about his conversation with attendants and the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of the attendants.



- d) Regarding patient's discharge, he was stepped down to ward on 23.03.2019, his neck hematoma was resolved and appropriate treatment was given and on 27.03.2019 patient was discharged after family consent in a conscious hemodynamically stable condition. Risk of nosocomial infection was discussed and explained to the attendants.
- e) Patient was readmitted on 28.03.2019 at around 11pm with new complain of seizures and drowsiness. Neurology & Infectious Diseases (ID) teams were taken on board. Patient's EEG, MRI Head & Brain, CSF studies were consistent with acute bacterial meningitis and appropriate management was done. Since the patient was drowsy and had grossly deranged thyroid profile, attendant was told that thyroid status can also contribute to its mental status; the question raised about fits can be mistakenly understood by the attendants. The fits developed after discharge of the patient on 27.03.2019.
- f) Considering multiple comorbids and prolonged ventilatory support, family was counseled for need of tracheostomy on 10.04.2019 but they refused. Patient was resuscitated after a CPR on 14.04.2019 but family then signed for DNR (do not resuscitate). Further on 16.04.2019 at 9:30pm family decided for terminal weaning and patient expired on 17.01.2019 at 9:30am.

#### IV. REPLY OF RESPONDENT NO.2, DR. ABDUL HAMEED

4. Respondent No. 2, Dr. Abdul Hameed submitted his reply on 01.07.2019 through Administration of the Hospital, wherein he stated that:
- a) Patient Mr. Rabnawaz got admitted 15.03.2019, I received the patient and gave over to my on-call team and signed off 4:30pm. I was not on call duty doctor on said dates (between 15.03.2019 & 16.03.2019).
- b) On 16.03.2019 around 9:45am, I received the call about patient's complaining of pain, attended the patient by 10:00am and ordered for ultrasound neck, removed D/L and managed to shift him to HDU setup.
- c) I called the attendant, and explained him about intubation need, to which they agreed and patient was shifted to ICU and intubated to secure airway. I counseled attendants about hematoma and risk of hematoma getting infected but probably that was misinterpreted by the attendant unfortunately as noticed now.
- d) As far as my misbehavior is concerned, patient's attendant talked to me regarding patient's condition and said that he was law knowing person so be careful, to which simply replied that I care more for patients' treatment rather than patient attendants' status.



- e) *The Nephrology team made all sincere efforts towards treatment and care of the patient but unfortunately patient could not make it.*

## V. REJOINDER OF THE COMPLAINANT

5. Replies received from the Respondent doctors were forwarded to Complainant through a letter dated 11.07.2019 for his rejoinder.
6. The Complainant submitted his rejoinder on 01.08.2019 rejecting the reply/comments by the Respondents, as an attempt to avoid responsibility. He further submitted that gross-negligence is evident as Respondents tried to call this “human error”.

## VI. HEARING

7. The matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 26.10.2022. Notices dated 24.10.2022 were issued to the Complainant, Respondent Dr. Farzana Adnan and Respondent Dr. Abdul Hameed directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 26.10.2022.
8. On the date of hearing, the Complainant and Respondents were present in person and both parties were given an opportunity to present their case.
9. The Complainant reiterated the stance taken in his complaint, submitting before this Committee that the patient was negligently managed and treated since the beginning and due to Respondent’s carelessness, the patient expired. The Complainant further alleged that Respondents did not appropriately counsel the attendants and instead Respondent No. 2 had misbehaved with him. The Complainant also submitted the report of the Sindh Healthcare Commission.
10. The Respondents were also provided an opportunity to state their stance and were questioned by the Expert doctor, Professor Dr. Shaheen Bhatti. The Respondents maintained at this hearing that the patient was well-monitored and proper care was provided, in consultation with all concerned departments, as per the applicable standard procedure of the Hospital. Moreover, the documentation practices at the Hospital have also been improved. The Disciplinary Committee asked the Respondent No.1 whether there are any SOPs to carry out



ultrasound guided DL, the respondent stated that ultrasound guided procedure is conducted only in those cases which have difficult lines.

## VII. EXPERT OPINION

11. A medical specialist was appointed as an Expert to assist the Disciplinary Committee in this matter. The Expert opined as under:

*After hearing the complainant Mr. Abdul Wahab Gabol and respondent Dr. Farzana Adnan and Dr. Abdul Hameed. The following conclusion can be made:-*

- (i) Complainant's brother said the deceased Mr. Rab Nawaz age 65 known case of diabetes, chronic Renal failure, hypothyroid, Atrial fibrillations was already under follow up under Dr. Farzana since December 2018. In the month of March 15.03.2019. Dr. Farzana decided for admission for AV Fistula and temporary dialysis via DL, so patient was admitted via OPD.*
- (ii) Patient landed up with complication of Jugular Catheter line with Hematoma formulation and compression over Trachea leading to difficulty in breathing which was taken into consideration although with some delay but intubated and then later extubated and discharged. Second admission was because of Sepsis and bacterial Meningitis with low conscious level which was managed but ultimately had cardiopulmonary arrest.*
- (iii) In conclusion there is a complication of procedure not exactly negligence on part of Medical team. But proper informed consent, complication of procedure should have been explained to the attendant timely. Also proper documentation of events with endorsement by attending doctor is necessary.*

## VIII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

12. The Disciplinary Committee has perused the relevant record, submissions of the parties and takes into account the opinion of the Expert, in the instant Complaint.
13. It is observed from the facts of the case and the evidences available before us, that the treatment provided by the Respondents to the patient was appropriate and as per applicable procedures. Hence, this Committee decides that this was a case of complication and there is no professional negligence on part of the Respondents in their treatment. We, however, wish to highlight the importance of effective communication between doctors and patient/attendants. Accordingly,






the Respondents are directed to improve their communication and necessary documentation of events.

14. The instant Complaint is disposed of in the above terms.

  
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan

Member

  
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor

Secretary

  
Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai

Chairman

22nd November, 2022

