Yorkton, Sask., doctor charged with sexual assault has history of complaints

By Peter Mills, CBC News

A Yorkton, Sask., doctor charged with six counts of sexual assault has a history of allegations of improper, unprofessional, or discreditable conduct.

In 2011, the college contacted him because a particular patient alleged that Dr. Mohammed Haque, 72, should not have performed a skin graft to her eye, which had resulted in a reduction in the size of her vagina and painful intercourse.

Dr. Haque was not the same as the patient had expected to practice any longer. That's our job. That's what we give up his licence and to not practise medicine in the future. As a result, there was no hearing and no findings by the College.

The complainant alleged Haque then instructed her touching her breasts and/or touching her buttocks and placed his hand in the region of her genitals “suggesting her boyfriend should touch her genital area for the purpose of an appropriate examination.”

Another woman accused Haque of making “sexualized or sexually-demeaning comments.”

The complainant alleged Haque then allegedly engaged in sexual conduct “by touching her breast or breasts and/or touching her buttocks and placed his hand in the region of her genitals other than for the purpose of an appropriate examination.”

Another woman accused Haque of making inappropriate sexual touching.

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Complaints include improper sexual touching.

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Yorkton gynecologist Dr. Mohammed N. Haque has agreed to give up his licence at the end of the month and discontinue practicing medicine, following accusations of misconduct with several female patients.

Haque was first charged by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) in January, after two women made allegations ranging from performing surgery without consent to making sexualized comments.

The CPSS associate registrar and legal counsel Bryan Salte said after those charges came to light in January, four more women came forward with allegations of misconduct.

That led to four additional charges of unprofessional or discreditable conduct regarding Haque’s interaction with female patients.

Salte said most of the complainants told him they would prefer not to have to testify, so the college entered into discussions with Haque.

"We dealt with it effectively as we could," he said.

"In a situation like this ... Doctor Haque continued to deny these events occurred, and the only way of resolving it would have been a hearing in which everybody would have been required to testify.

"Ultimately we achieved a resolution of Doctor Haque no longer being in practice faster than we ever would have through the disciplinary process, and so the public protection, from our perspective, was achieved."

Salte said all of the alleged incidents occurred in the Yorkton area. In one case, Haque is alleged to have performed an operation on a woman without first doing an adequate assessment.

The complainant says the operation, which was not the one she was expecting, resulted in a reduction in the size of her vagina and painful intercourse.

In the other case brought before the college, another woman complained Haque initiated a conversation regarding his own sexual preferences and fantasies, and engaged in conduct the woman interpreted to be sexual.

Haque did not return calls to his office late Monday regarding the latest charges, but in January he told the Leader-Post he disputed the patients' versions of events in the first two charges.

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REGINA — Yorkton gynecologist Dr. Mohammed N. Haque will face a disciplinary committee following allegations of misconduct.

Haque has been charged by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan over allegations ranging from performing surgery without consent to making sexualized or sexually demeaning comments.

In one case, Haque is alleged to have performed an operation on a woman without first doing an adequate assessment.

The complainant says the operation, which was not the one she was expecting, resulted in a reduction in the size of her vagina and painful intercourse.

In the other case brought before the college, another woman complained Haque initiated a conversation regarding his own sexual preferences and fantasies, and engaged in conduct the woman interpreted to be sexual.

According to the charges, he touched her breasts, remarked on their size, and initiated conversations about her sex life when she had not presented with sexual concerns.

College registrar Karen Shaw said Haque was charged at the most recent council on Jan. 13 and 14, but his disciplinary hearing date would depend on the availability of the committee and legal counsel.

If Haque is found guilty of the charges, the case will be referred back to council for penalty setting.

“At the present time, we can’t speculate on (a penalty) ... because the penalty is related to what charges are proven,” said Shaw.

“Very egregious charges may result in revocation of licence, but in this particular case we don’t know until the committee has had the opportunity to sit and hear the matter.”

Haque received his medical degree in Bangladesh, trained in the UK, and was first licensed in Canada in 1988.

Shaw said Haque has never been formally disciplined by the college and is currently still practising in Yorkton with no restrictions on his licence.

When contacted by the Leader-Post, Haque said he disputes both patients’ versions of events and will fight the charges at the disciplinary hearing.

“Everybody everywhere, before they do any kind of surgery, has to sign the form,” he said of the first case.

In the second case, he said he was simply “sharing a joke” with the patient.

“I will explain all this to (the disciplinary committee),” he said.

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