



## College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

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### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – December 10, 2021

## Dr. COPEN, Yil-Kyong Brenda

Victoria, BC

1. **Nature of action:** The Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) conducted an investigation into the conduct of Dr. Yil-Kyong Brenda Copen under section 33(4) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183.

The Inquiry Committee and Dr. Brenda Copen have agreed to resolve all matters arising from the investigation by way of a Consent Agreement under section 37.1(3)(a) of the *Health Professions Act*.

2. **Effective date:** December 7, 2021
3. **Name of registrant:** Dr. Yil-Kyong Brenda Copen
4. **Location of practice:** Victoria, BC
5. **Admission and acknowledgements:** Dr. Brenda Copen has admitted and/or acknowledged the following:
  - a. That she prescribed medication and provided medical care to an employee outside of her regular scope of practice; and
  - b. That she was complicit in the hiring of patients to work at her clinic and for her private businesses unrelated to her clinical practice.
6. **Disposition:** Following the authorization of a disciplinary citation pursuant to section 37 of the *Health Professions Act*, Dr. Brenda Copen entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, wherein she has consented to the following terms, pursuant to section 39(2) of the *Health Professions Act*:
  - a. Transfer from the Full – Specialty class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration;
  - b. A formal reprimand;
  - c. A suspension from the practice of medicine for two months;
  - d. Completion of a multi-disciplinary assessment program;
  - e. Participation in continuing medical education and professional development in the areas of ethics and professionalism; and

- f. Undertakings not to hire patients to work at her clinic or for her private businesses, not to prescribe medication or provide medical care to employees, and to refrain from practising medicine outside of the scope of expertise.
7. **Rationale:** The Inquiry Committee was critical of the registrant's conduct, and acknowledged that she may not have directly hired patients to work for her clinic and private businesses but noted that she was fully aware of the hiring of patients and therefore complicit in the boundary violation. The committee acknowledged that the standard of care was not met when an employee was provided with a prescription to treat asthma. The committee expressed concern regarding the prescribing of cortico-steroid medication since Dr. Brenda Copen was not a primary care provider or a respirologist and appeared to be practising outside of her area of expertise, which is psychiatry.

*The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice.*

**Inquiries:**

Communications and Public Affairs

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