

Doctor loses licence over painkiller scheme

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CBC News

Province cracks down on OxyContin use

DOCUMENT: Discipline decision regarding Dr. Anthony Hlynka

The Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons has pulled the medical licence of a doctor who prescribed addictive painkillers to patients in a "reckless" manner.

'It was a misuse of his power and privilege.'—*Dr. Bill Pope*

Dr. Anthony Hlynka was found guilty of misconduct after an investigation and hearing in February where Hlynka pleaded guilty to breaching the College's code of conduct.

Documents from the College show Hlynka prescribed painkillers like OxyContin and Percocet to a significant number of patients, some of whom engaged in a deal with him to acquire the drugs for his own use.

The College's investigation looked at 25 of Hlynka's patients, CEO Dr. Bill Pope said.

"He would write prescriptions for them and ask them to give him back all of the medications. And in others, there was even a prescription written for a third party," Pope said.

"It was a misuse of his power and privilege," Pope said.

Should Hlynka want to practice medicine again, Pope said he would have to appear before a panel of the College's executive and convince them he has changed his ways.

Documents released by the College said Hlynka was addicted to narcotic painkillers, which the College review panel found influenced Hlynka's conduct.

In addition to the loss of his licence, Hlynka must also pay more than \$30,000 to the College for the cost of the investigation.

News of the decision comes just days after Manitoba Health introduced new regulations for doctors that limit their ability to prescribe OxyContin to patients.