BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL & DENTAL COUNCIL

In the matter of
Complaint No. PF.8-1959/2021-DC/PMC
Mr. Amir Shehzad against Dr. Rizwana Mazhar Hassan (5956-N)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Khan	Chairman
Prof. Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb	Member
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Expert of Gynecology	

Present:

Mr. Amir Shehzad	Complainant
Dr. Rizwana Mazhar Hassan (5956-N)	Respondent
Hearing dated	03.05.2024

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Mr. Amir Shehzad (the "Complainant") through his application dated 27.05.2021 forwarded decision of the Punjab Healthcare Commission (the "PHC") against Dr. Rizwana Mazhar Hassan (the "Respondent") working at Hasan Medical & Surgical Complex, Hasanabdal (the "Hospital"). Brief facts are as under:

   a. *The Complainant took his wife, Nazia (the "Patient") to the Hospital for Evacuation and Curettage (E&C) due to missed abortion on 29.05.2017 where the Respondent admitted the Patient and performed the E&C on 31.05.2021.*
   b. *Post-discharge, the patient complained of abdominal pain whereupon the Complainant took her to Respondent on 01.06.2017, who after ultrasound, reported the Patient's condition as normal*

and gave her Injection Risek infusion, I-V painkillers and Enema. Patient's condition deteriorated further, resulting in shortness of breath and vomiting. The Complainant took the patient to POF Hospital, Wah Cantt. wherefrom she was referred to PIMS Hospital, Islamabad.

c. *The Complainant alleged that the examination by the duty doctor at PIMS Hospital revealed that the uterus of the Patient was perforated and the large intestine had been dissected during the E&C procedure. The dead fetal pieces were still present in her uterus and consequently she was diagnosed with peritonitis and sepsis. The Patient remained in critical condition and due to multiple organ failure, expired on 03.06.2017.*

d. *The Complainant also had filed a complaint before the Punjab Healthcare Commission (the "PHC") against the Hospital. The PHC decided the said complaint vide order dated 15.05.2019 and referred the matter of Respondent doctor to the PM&DC.*

II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE ISSUED TO RESPONDENT

2. In view of the allegations leveled in the Complaint, a Show Cause Notice dated 07.07.2022 was issued to the Respondent doctor, in the following terms:

"...

3. ***WHEREAS,*** *a Complaint has been filed by Mr. Amir Shahzad, (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant") on 27th May 2021 before the Disciplinary Committee of Pakistan Medical Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Complaint") whereby he has forwarded a decision of the Punjab Healthcare Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "PHC") dated 15" May 2019, wherein, your case has been sent to this Commission. The aforementioned decision of the PHC is attached as Annex I and shall be read as an integral part of this notice; and*

4. ***WHEREAS,*** *in terms of the Complaint and the reference of the PHC, it has been alleged that, the Complainant brought his wife (hereinafter referred to as the "Patient") to Hasan Medical and Surgical Complex for Evacuation and Curettage (E&C) due to missed abortion on 29th May 2017. You were the attending doctor at this Hospital and admitted the patient. You performed E&C procedure on 31" May 2017; and*

5. ***WHEREAS,*** *in terms of the Complaint and the reference of the PHC, it has been alleged that after discharge, the patient was suffering from abdominal pain and the Complainant brought the patient to you, again on 01" June 2017, where you examined her. You performed the ultrasound and reported everything as normal and gave the patient Injection Risek infusion, I-V painkillers and Enema. After going home, the patient's abdominal pain aggravated further resulting in*

shortness of breath and vomiting. Subsequently, the Complainant took the patient to POF Hospital, Wah wherefrom she was referred to PIMS Hospital, Islamabad.; and

6. ***WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint and the reference of the PHC, it has been alleged that the examination by the duty doctors at the PIMS Hospital, Islamabad revealed that the uterus of the patient was perforated and the large intestine had been dissected during the E&C procedure performed at Hasan Medical and Surgical Complex. The dead fetal pieces were still present in her uterus. She was diagnosed with peritonitis and sepsis. The patient remained critical and due to multiple organ failure expired on 03 June 2017, and*
7. ***WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint and the reference of the PHC, it has been alleged it is alleged that, you negligently treated the patient during her E&C procure which led to multiple organ failure and death of the patient. Such conduct is, prima facit, violative of the Code of Ethics of Practice for Medical and Dental Practitioners' Regulations of 2011, in general and Regulations 4, 21(1), 25(2)(a), 49(a) and 50, in particular.*
8. ***WHEREAS**, you are registered with Pakistan Medical Commission under Registration No. 5956-N, whereby you have got the degree of Basic Medical Qualification (MBBS) only, and*
9. ***WHEREAS**, a general practitioner cannot practice in the field of specialty without requisite qualification duly recognized by this Commission and represent, as having acquired or seek to practice a specialty, unless the same is recognized by this Commission. Therefore, in view of facts mentioned in this notice your conduct of practicing as Gynae specialist is in violation of Section 29 (2), (8) & (10) of the Act, read with Regulation 8(2) of Code of Ethics of Practice for medical and dental practitioners, Regulations, 2011; and ..."*

III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT

3. The Respondent initially submitted her response on 15.08.2022, conveying that she had assailed the decision of the PHC before the Lahore High Court and accordingly, the Show Cause Notice be withdrawn. The Complainant was informed on 30.08.2022 to submit reply, in her own interest. Accordingly, on 06.09.2022, Respondent submitted reply, wherein she stated that:

   a. Patient did not die at the Hospital. Instead, she died at PIMS Hospital after being wrongfully operated for Laparotomy by trainee doctors while the Consultant Gynecologist, Head of department never came to check on the Patient.

b. Patient's expulsion of Macerated Fetus followed by MVA was done at 12:15 pm on 31.05.2017 at the Hospital whereas she was operated at PIMS at 3:00 pm on 02.06.2017, therefore according to documents, there was 51 hours between the two procedures.

c. Patient died due to the negligence of doctors at PIMS Hospital which had issued a fabricated case summary before the District Health Authority, Attock.

4. The Respondent further objected to the case summary issued by PIMS Hospital on the following grounds:

d. PIMS Hospital had reported that Patient had a Complete Recent Traumatic Transection of Recto Sigmoid Junction. The use of the word recent was misleading as a 51-hour old transaction could not be labeled as recent, because such an old transaction would have gangrene and no gangrene was mentioned.

e. Statement that Patient's uterus had perforation of 5x4 cm and was bleeding profusely did not correlate with a complete recent transaction of recto sigmoid junction.

f. The Laparotomy was unnecessarily performed despite warnings by Dr. Shumaila that the uterus was not perforated.

g. If the recto sigmoid was completely transacted, the stomach would be full of puss and fecal matter, however, there was no mention of the foul smell by the gynae and surgery team.

e. It is mentioned that the CET was intact, had the uterus been ruptured or perforated, it would not have held its balloon like shape and CET would not be mentioned as intact.

5. The Respondent further claimed that she was being targeted for the negligence of the doctors at PIMS Hospital, Islamabad who were neither called nor questioned by the PHC.

IV. REJOINDER OF COMPLAINANT

6. The Complainant submitted his rejoinder on 16.09.2022, wherein he reiterated his stance against the Respondent and further held that the Respondent had misrepresented facts in the reply by totally changing her stance with malafide intentions and ulterior motives.

7. The Complainant further stated that records of the PHC categorically found that the Respondent's healthcare establishment was running without a license from the PHC and that the Respondent was conducting deliveries and c-sections without qualified nurses, staff and equipment. The records specifically mentioned that there were neither nay OT surveillance nor any record of sterilization being maintained. Furthermore, the records mentioned that the

Respondent was performing gynecological surgeries without any post-graduation qualifications.

V. PREVIOUS HEARING

8. Earlier, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee for 03.05.2024. On that date of hearing, both the Complainant and the Respondent were present and were duly heard. The Disciplinary Committee after hearing the parties and perusal of available record decided that as the patient was treated at the Mother and Child Centre of PIMS Hospital, Islamabad, therefore, the doctors who treated the patient at PIMS, are to be called at the next date of hearing. The relevant para of the decision is reproduced, as under:

> *"... Keeping in view the entire facts and record, the Disciplinary Committee is of the considered opinion that the doctors who treated the patient at the PIMS Hospital, Islamabad should be directed to appear before the Disciplinary Committee. Their appearance before this Committee is critical to completely comprehend the treatment given to the patient and reach a logical conclusion in the instant matter. Accordingly, Prof. Dr. S. Batool (Surgeon), Dr. Mehreen, Dr. Saadia Aftab, Dr. Rizwana, Dr. Madiha and Dr. Shumaila of the Mother and Child Centre at the PIMS Hospital, Islamabad shall be summoned to appear before the next hearing in the instant matter. Furthermore, the afore-mentioned doctors shall also bring along the original record from PIMS Hospital, Islamabad regarding treatment of the patient. ..."*

VI. PRESENT HEARING

9. Presently, the matter was fixed again for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 12.12.2024. Notices dated 04.12.2024 were issued to the Complainant and the doctors summoned at the earlier hearing in the instant matter, directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 12.12.2024.

10. At the present hearing, the Complainant was present in person, however, only Dr. Sadia Aftab (Assistant Professor, Gynae Unit-II) from the PIMS Hospital has appeared. The Disciplinary Committee notes that the remaining doctors were duly summoned and intimated in writing to appear before this Committee today, however, they have remained absent today, despite

service of notice of hearing. This attitude by the absent doctors today, is concerning to say the least, keeping in view, that they are practicing at Islamabad.

11. Notwithstanding, in the interest of justice, it is recommended that Prof. Dr. S. Batool (Surgeon), Dr. Mehreen, Dr. Saadia Aftab, Dr. Rizwana, Dr. Madiha and Dr. Shumaila of the Mother and Child Centre at the PIMS Hospital, Islamabad shall be provided another opportunity to appear before this Disciplinary Committee. They shall ensure their presence at the next hearing in the instant complaint along with all necessary treatment record of the patient. A copy of this decision shall be sent to the Executive Director of PIMS Hospital, Islamabad for its necessary compliance.

12. The instant complaint is adjourned with the above directions.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Khan
Chairman

____ January, 2025