



**BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL & DENTAL
COUNCIL**

In the matter of

Complaint No. PF. 8-2137/2022-DC/PMC

Mr. Waqas Ahmed against Dr. Harris Shehzad (103674-P)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair Khan	Chairman
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Prof. Dr. Mahmud Aurangzeb	Member (online)
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member (online)
Specialty Expert	

Present:

Dr. Harris Shehzad (103674-P) Respondent

Hearing dated 12.12.2024

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Mr. Waqas Ahmed (the "Complainant") filed a Complaint on 23.06.2022 against Dr. Harris Shehzad (the "Respondent") working at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Jand (the "Hospital"):
 - a. *The Complainant submitted that his brother, Mr. Awais (the "Patient") suffered from snake-bite in early hours of the morning and was taken to the Hospital where the Respondent, being the Duty Medical Officer attended the patient.*
 - b. *Complainant alleges that the Respondent falsely told the Complainant and attendants of the patient that Anti-Snake Venom had been administered to the patient, whereas, patient was only administered IV drip. Later, the Respondent referred the patient to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi, however, the patient expired shortly after leaving the THQ Hospital, Jand. Complainant alleges that negligence of the Respondent was the cause of the death of the patient.*



- c. *The Complainant was directed to substantiate his claim with evidence regarding (i) in-time arrival of patient at the Hospital and (ii) non-administration of ASV to patient. In response, an Inquiry Report of the CEO, District Health Authority, Attock was submitted attesting to initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent and other concerned staff.*

II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE ISSUED TO RESPONDENT

2. In view of the allegations leveled in the Complaint, a Show Cause Notice dated 24.10.2022 was issued to the Respondent, in the following terms:

“... ”

3. **WHEREAS**, a Complaint has been received at the Disciplinary Committee of the Commission (the "Complaint") from Mr. Waqas Ahmad (the "Complainant"), which is enclosed along with its annexures and shall be read as an integral part of this Notice, and
4. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the Complaint, it has been alleged that you treated the patient, Mr. Awais, a snake bite victim, negligently and due to your negligence and carelessness, the patient expired; and
5. **Now therefore**, you are hereby served such Notice, explaining as to why the penalty shall not be imposed on you under the Pakistan Medical Commission Act, 2020. You are directed to submit your response along with complete medical record within the period of thirty (30) days. You are further directed to submit a copy of your registration certificate. ...”

III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT

3. The Respondent doctor submitted his response on 18.11.2022 wherein he stated that:
- a. “... Management detail of patient in morning shift (My duty) I joined the duty on 21/04/2022 around 8:00am Morning shift.
- i. Patient name Awais Ahmed S/O Sher Muhammad was given in over to me around 8:00am on 21/04/2022 by night shift staff Dr Umer Farooq who originally received the patient at arrival (The arrival time according to the patient was 5:35am).
- b. Brief history given by Dr Umer Farooq was that the patient presented with C/O snake bite on left shoulder and kept under observation and fluid is attached and he has not given any ASV (Anti snake venom) as according to him there is no indication of administering it.
- c. As I was inquiring about the patient from the night staff, one of the attendant came and told that the patient is complaining about difficulty in breathing. I immediately went to the patient for



checkup and on asking, the patient complained of sweating and difficulty in breathing. We (The morning staff) checked the vitals which were normal at that moment but due to these symptoms we added 2 ampoules of ASV in the fluid already attached which was around 500ml and oxygen was given and observed the patient for any hypersensitivity reaction.

- i. In the meantime without wasting any time i made the slip of patient as no slip was handed over to me.
 - ii. After 5 minutes, as there was no hypersensitivity reaction so we added 2 more ampoules of ASV in the fluid.
 - iii. Then after almost 10 minutes, patient complained of no improvement. On checking the vitals again, patient oxygen saturation was dropping. So airway was maintained and oxygen given. According to these sign and symptoms there was suspicion of neurotoxic snake bite. Therefore there is need of ventilatory support as the patient may go into respiratory paralysis.
- d. Hence without any delay Rescue 1122 was called immediately and the patient was referred to Tertiary care hospital (BBH Rawalpindi) around 8:25am with airway maintained along with oxygen support (copy of referral form attached) as the patient may need ventilatory support and ICU care and should be referred to Tertiary care hospital as soon as possible (Due to unavailability of ICU care here).
- e. Now coming on complainant's plea: Firstly the complainant claims in point 2 and 3 that he on his arrival with the patient on 21/04/2022 around 5:35am, the duty doctor was Dr Haris Shahzad and there was argument about administering ASV. It is completely false as i was not even on duty doctor at that time. My duty started on 21/04/2022 at 8:00am Morning shift (Roster attached) So this proves that the complaint is totally fictitious. The patient was received in night shift by Dr Umer Farooq. So the argument about administering ASV (Antisnake venom) was not with me but with the night shift staff. (The authenticity of this argument can be verified by them as i was not present at that time as i was not on duty doctor at that time).
- f. Secondly complainant said in point 4 about cutting in slip and the referral. As i have explained earlier that I received the patient at around 8:00am in over from the night shift doctor (He hasn't administered ASV) and within 5-10 minutes I administered 2 ampoules of ASV and observed for any hypersensitivity and after that 2 more ampoules were added. Total of 4 ampoules that was corrected in the slip. It is also mentioned in the emergency register. And about the referral as have already explained that there was suspicion of neurotoxic snake bite in which the patient may go into respiratory paralysis and need



ventilatory support so cannot be stabilized here and should be referred to Tertiary care hospital as soon as possible. So, without any delay patient was referred.

- g. Now to summarize the details of the above said: received the patient at around 8:00am and without wasting any time I made the slip of the patient, administered ASV, maintained airway, attached oxygen, made the arrangement for referral and referred the patient at around 8:25am.*
- h. I have tried to manage the patient in best way could and done everything in my domain in the best interest of patient with full honesty.*

IV. REJOINDER OF COMPLAINANT

4. A letter dated 24.11.2022 was written to the Complainant enclosing the reply of the Respondent doctor, directing the Complainant to submit his rejoinder.
5. A rejoinder dated 30.11.2022 was received from the Complainant wherein he rejected the reply of the Respondent and reiterated the negligence of the Respondent as the cause of death of the patient. It was reiterated that the Respondent also tampered with the OPD slip of the Hospital post-death of the patient.

V. HEARING

6. The matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee for 12.12.2024. Notices dated 04.12.2024 were issued to the Complainant and the Respondent doctor, directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 12.12.2024.
7. On the date of hearing, the Respondent was present before the Disciplinary Committee, in person. However, the Complainant did not appear before this Committee.
8. The Disciplinary Committee notes that the Complainant has not appeared today, despite service of notice of hearing. However, in the interest of justice, the Disciplinary Committee recommends to provide another opportunity to the Complainant to appear and if he fails to show up in the next meeting, the instant complaint shall be decided ex-parte on the basis of available record. This Committee also observes that the other treating doctor at THQ Hospital, Jand, Dr. Umer Farooq shall be summoned at the next date of hearing, so as to clarify his role and actions which are reflected in the medical record available before this forum.



9. Therefore, fresh Notices of appearance shall be issued to the Complainant and the Respondent Dr. Umer Farooq to appear before the Disciplinary Committee in its next meeting.
10. The case is adjourned in the above terms.

Zubair Khan

Professor Dr. Muhammad Zubair Khan
Chairman

_____ January, 2025