



Public Notification

Dr. Pieter Taams, ND

Date of action: October 2015

Description of action taken:

The College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia (the “College”) has entered into a Consent Order with Dr. Pieter Taams, (the “Registrant”), license #40, under sections 33(6) and 36(1)(b), (c), and (d) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c 183 (the “Act”), on the following terms:

- 1) The Registrant admitted and undertook not to repeat the conduct of:
 - a. failing to keep adequate clinical records in respect of his patients;
 - b. failing to obtain informed consent to treatment from a patient; and
 - c. placing improper reliance upon non-primary diagnostic techniques and failing to employ and/or respond appropriately to primary diagnostic techniques and test results in his treatment of a patient.
- 2) The Registrant consented and undertook to pay a fine of \$10,000 to the College.
- 3) The Registrant consented and undertook to complete two courses on record-keeping and diagnostic techniques at the Registrant’s own expense.
- 4) The Registrant consented and undertook to cooperate with random spot audits by an Inspector appointed by the Inquiry Committee, at any time during the two (2) year period following the date of this Consent Order, to review his clinical records for the purpose of ensuring that his practice remains consistent with the standards of practice for naturopathic doctors in British Columbia.
- 5) The Registrant consented to be reprimanded for:
 - a. keeping clinical records in respect of his patients that fall well below the standard expected of a naturopathic physician;

- b. his significant departure from standards of practice in relying on non-primary diagnostic techniques with respect to a patient who had been diagnosed with cancer; and
 - c. failing to employ and/or respond appropriately to primary diagnostic techniques and test results in his treatment of a patient.
- 6) The Registrant consented and undertook that his future practice of naturopathic medicine and professional conduct will be above reproach.

Reasons for action taken:

The College received a written complaint alleging that the Registrant had misled her in regard to a cancer diagnosis. The complaint was forwarded to the Inquiry Committee, which commenced an investigation into the complaint.

Over the course of the investigation, the Registrant admitted that he had:

- 1) failed to maintain the records and accounts required with respect to his practice contrary to section 9 (a) of the *Code of Conduct*;
- 2) failed to obtain written informed consent to treatment from a patient;
- 3) failed to meet the standard of care in his treatment of the one patient, having improperly relied upon inappropriate diagnostic techniques and/or failed to employ and/or respond appropriately to primary diagnostic methods in his diagnosis of a patient; and
- 4) failed to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflected the evaluation and treatment of the patient, contrary to section 9 (b) of the *Code of Conduct*.

The Inquiry Committee determined, under section 33(6)(c) of the *Act*, that this would be an appropriate case in which to seek a consent order under section 36(1) of the *Act* with comprehensive terms to address the Registrant's failure to meet the standards of practice of the profession because:

- 1) the Registrant had admitted to, and expressed an understanding of, the seriousness of the conduct at issue;

- 2) the Registrant was willing to take rehabilitative and remedial action, including a reprimand and additional education in diagnostic techniques, record-keeping, and professional ethics; and
- 3) adequate steps could be taken to monitor the Registrant's practice, as well as to assess his ongoing ethical and professional development.

The Committee concluded, and the Registrant agreed, that the appropriate action was a Consent Order pursuant to section 36(1) of the *Act*, which would enable to College to monitor the Registrant's practice to protect the public safety and require the Registrant to undertake further remedial steps and to bring his professionalism and standards of practice into alignment with those of the profession.