

Public Notification

Dr. Kyung Sun (Florie) Kim, ND – License Number 00263

1. Nature of Action

On March 1, 2024, Dr. Kyung Sun (Florie) Kim, ND (“Dr. Kim”), agreed to a consent order following an investigation by the College of Naturopathic Physicians of British Columbia (the “College”).

The College’s Inquiry Committee investigated a complaint made by the parents of Dr. Kim’s former patient (the “Patient”) on December 27, 2021. The complaint concerned the Patient’s treatment by Dr. Kim between December 7, 2015 and October 18, 2018.

Following the investigation, the Inquiry Committee had concerns that Dr. Kim had prescribed DHEA, a drug which is excluded from the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in BC, and that Dr. Kim had not met the standard of practice required of a naturopathic physician in BC in treating the Patient.

The Inquiry Committee disposed of the investigation pursuant to section 33(6) and 36(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 183 (the “Act”). The Inquiry Committee was of the view that the conduct at issue in this investigation met the definition of a “serious matter” as defined in section 26 of the Act, and therefore motioned that this public notification be published on the College website pursuant to section 39.3(b) and 39.3(2) of the Act.

2. Public Notification Approval Date

March 8, 2024

3. Name of Registrant and Locations of Practice

Dr. Kyung Sun (Florie) Kim, ND
Surrey, BC

4. Terms of Consent Order

- a. Dr. Kim admitted to the nature of the complaint, agreed to take appropriate education courses and undertook not to repeat the conduct to which the matter relates.
- b. Dr. Kim received a formal reprimand from the College.
- c. Dr. Kim consented to a 10-day suspension of their practice of naturopathic medicine, to be served on 10 consecutive days, within six months of the effective date of the consent order.

- d. Dr. Kim consented to a fine of \$2000, to be paid to the College within six months of the effective date of the consent order.
- e. Dr. Kim consented to a restriction on their practice preventing them from prescribing any sex hormones in practice until they successfully complete the courses identified by the Committee.
- f. Dr. Kim agreed to successfully complete an ethics course with topics relevant to the issues raised in the complaint, within six months of the effective date of the consent order.

5. Reasons

Dr. Kim began treating the Patient for suspected polycystic ovarian syndrome (“PCOS”) with a prescription for this condition. The Committee was of the view that Dr. Kim did not conduct diagnostic examinations and techniques required by the standard of care prior to administering this kind of treatment.

Dr. Kim prescribed the Patient DHEA (Dehydroepiandrosterone) which was contraindicated for treating PCOS. Furthermore, DHEA is excluded from the scope of practice for naturopathic doctors in BC.

The Patient’s condition did not improve with Dr. Kim’s treatment, and she also experienced serious side effects. Despite this, Dr. Kim did not refer the Patient to another healthcare practitioner with the appropriate qualifications and knowledge in endocrinology.

The Inquiry Committee is therefore of the view that Dr. Kim’s treatment of the Patient did not meet the standard of practice required of a naturopathic doctor in these circumstances. The College is satisfied that the terms of this consent order will protect the public by raising public notice of this serious matter, and by reinforcing the standards of practice that apply to naturopathic doctors.