



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

In the matter of

Complaint No. P.F-12-Complaint-115/2016-legal

Mr. Muhammad Usman Vs. Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sandhu

Professor Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai	Chairman
Professor Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh	Member
Mr. Jawad Amin Khan	Member
Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor	Secretary
Expert of Surgery	

Present:

Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sandhu (54961-P)	Respondent
Dr. Zubair Younas Butt	DMS, Mayo Hospital
Hearing dated	21.11.2022

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Reference was received from the Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) in the matter of the complaint filed by Mr. Muhammad Usman (the "Complainant") against Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sandhu, (the "Respondent") working at Mayo Hospital, Lahore (the "Hospital"). Brief facts of the complaint are that:

a) Complainant's mother (the "Patient") sustained a firearm shot in her abdomen during a fight. She was admitted in the Hospital on 14.8.2014, where she was treated after medico legal formalities. On

Decision of the Disciplinary Committee in the matter of Complaint No. P.F-12-Complaint-115/2016-legal

the same day, doctor present in ward suggested to not perform a surgery as the patient was old-aged and suffered from diabetes. She remained admitted in the hospital from 14.8.2014 to 21.8.2014.

- b) It has been alleged that patient again reported on 25.9.2014 in Minor Operation theatre (MOT) for removal of bullet. Respondent instructed the ward attendant, Asghar, to remove the bullet from swollen part. The said ward attendant removed multiple masses from the patient's body but could not spot the bullet to remove it.*
- c) No X-ray or ultrasound of the patient was suggested and the said removed masses were also not sent for further examination and analysis.*
- d) After conducting an X-ray of patient at a private facility by a qualified radiologist, it revealed presence of the bullet.*
- e) Complainant alleged that owed to negligent treatment the wound did not heal even after lapse of one month.*

2. The Punjab Healthcare Commission (the "PHC") decided the complaint filed by Mr. Muhammad Usman vide its decision dated 03.10.2016, *inter alia* in the following terms:

"...15. After thorough deliberations and taking into consideration the record and the above noted findings / observations the Board decides as follows:

- a) A fine of Rs. 100,000/- is imposed upon the HCE (Mayo Hospital for a non-provision of complete medical record of the patient to the PHC.*
- b) Health Department Government of Punjab be approached to take disciplinary action against Dr. Muhammad Farooq, PGR (4th year), MS surgery for not treating the patient himself and allowing a ward attendant to manipulate the gunshot wound of a diabetic patient.*
- c) Disciplinary action be taken against ward attendant Mr. Muhammad Asghar under PEEDA ACT, 2006 for unauthorized treatment of a gunshot wound of a diabetic patient.*
- d) MS Mayo Hospital, Lahore be warned by the Health Department Govt of the Punjab for;
i. Not exercising proper administrative control over the staff
ii. Not framing SOPs for procedures to be undertaken at Emergency Department of the hospital.*

The case of Dr. Muhammad Farooq is referred to PMDC for not treating the patient himself and allowing a ward attendant to manipulate the gunshot wound of a diabetic patient

- e) *Warning be issued by the Health Department, Govt. of the Punjab to the then Head of the Department, North Surgical Unit, Mayo Hospital, Lahore for poor command and control over his PGRs.*
- f) *A letter to be written to Vice Chancellor, King Edward Medical University apprising him the work and conduct of Dr. Muhammad Farooq, PGR and to direct him to take necessary measures for the improvement in training of PG students ...”*

II. DC HEARING DATED 27.03.2021

3. In view of the reference received from the PHC, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 27.03.2021. The Disciplinary Committee inter-alia directed as under:

“Both the parties were absent. Medical Superintendent Mayo Hospital has not provided record so far and has sought adjournment. Considering the facts of the case and the gravity of the issue and non-serious attitude of the respondent doctor, the committee decided that the license of Dr. Muhammad Farooq will be suspended with immediate effect and shall stay suspended until his appearance before Committee”.

III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT, DR. MUHAMMAD FAROOQ SANDHU

4. Respondent, Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sandhu submitted his reply on merits of the case on 28.04.2021, wherein he stated as under:

a) *The patient named Mrs. Anwar Bibi W/o Khurshid Alam was presented in Surgical Emergency, Mayo Hospital Lahore with history of fire arm injury to right iliac-fossa. I examined the patient and after initial resuscitation and management, she was admitted for further surgical procedure. The surgical team in Operation Theater consisted of the following members who explored the wound and performed debridement on 15.08.2014.*

- i. *Dr. Mehmood Farooqi, SR*
- ii. *Dr. Mehmood, PGR*
- iii. *Dr. Ahmed Bilal, HO*
- iv. *Dr. Umer*

- b) *That after successful procedure the patient was shifted on 15.08.2014 at 06:20am in ward wherefrom she was discharged on 21.8.2014 with the advice to take prescribed medicines and was suggested to follow up through OPD. The attendants of the patient were concerned about the removal of bullet but were counseled by me and the surgical team that it is not necessary to remove the bullet at that particular time as it is not causing further harm to the patient.*
- c) *At the time of follow up in OPD the attendants of the patient were again insisting for removal of the bullet and despite my counseling they remained adamant.*
- d) *Later on, Mr. Muhammad Usman, son of patient filed an application before the Punjab Healthcare Commission claiming that I have directed the dresser of hospital to remove the bullet in emergency minor operation theatre. I vehemently denied the plea of the complainant which is unfounded and baseless.*
- e) *During investigation at Punjab Healthcare Commission it was established that affidavit given by dresser against me was obtained through harassment / blackmailing.*
- f) *The Respondent stated that the complaint against him is not based on facts, therefore the same may please be rejected in the best interest of justice.*

IV. DC HEARING DATED 11.12.2021

5. The matter was again fixed for hearing before Disciplinary Committee on 11.12.2021. The Disciplinary Committee inter-alia directed as under:

“8. The Disciplinary Committee has noted that admittedly Respondent Dr. Farooq Sandhu (54961-P) has been practicing despite suspension of his license on 27.03.2021. The Disciplinary Committee shows its grave concern over such conduct of Respondent doctor and decides that suspension of his license will continue till further orders and disposal of the instant Complaints on merit. A copy of this order be forwarded to Secretary Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department, Government of Punjab and healthcare establishment where the Respondent Dr. Farooq Sandhu is working.

9. The Disciplinary Committee further decides to suspend the license to practice of Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad (12368-P) Medical Superintendent of Mayo Hospital Lahore. His license shall remain suspended till provision of requisite medical record pertaining to the instant complaint.”

6. Subsequently, the Respondent Dr. Farooq Sandhu filed an application on 09.03.2022 via an email wherein he stated that his license to practice was suspended by the Disciplinary Committee due to non-appearance in hearing dated 27.03.2021. Later the Disciplinary Committee on 28.02.2022 directed to continue the decision of suspension of his license. He requested to review the decision regarding suspension of his license.
7. The request was placed before the Disciplinary Committee for consideration. The Disciplinary Committee acceded to request of Respondent, Dr. Farooq Sandhu and recalled decision of suspension of his license.

V. DC HEARING DATED 03.06.2022

8. After the perusal of record submitted by the Complainant and the Respondents, the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 03.06.2022. The Disciplinary Committee, in view of incomplete records presented, observed and directed as under:

“...11. As per the findings of Punjab Health Care Commission the dresser operated the patient to remove the bullet. Dresser being the most relevant person to this case, the Disciplinary Committee directs DMS, Mayo Hospital, Lahore to ensure presence of that dresser on next date of hearing of Disciplinary Committee in the matter and also produce the record of disciplinary proceedings against dresser including the enquiry report prepared in the matter.

12. Further, the Committee directs to retain the original record presented before the Disciplinary Committee during the hearing by DMS, Mayo Hospital and DMS is directed to provide rest of record within three days. Further, a special hearing will be held in the matter to conclude the proceedings once the record is submitted by Mayo Hospital.”

VI. COMPLIANCE OF DC DECISION DATED 03.06.2022

9. In compliance of the orders of the Disciplinary Committee dated 03.06.2022, a letter was sent to the Medical Superintendent, Mayo Hospital, Lahore directing him to provide the following record and evidences, within 05 days of receipt:



- i. Duty roster of 25.09.2014 of Minor OT, Emergency and North Surgical Unit/Ward;
 - ii. Name of doctors who treated the Patient, Anwar Bibi on date of incident (25.09.2014) in Emergency, Minor OT and North Surgical Ward;
 - iii. Complete record of the patient (including admission notes, investigation reports, x-rays, discharge summary and any other relevant record) for all the treatment given to the patient on 14.08.2014 to 21.08.2014 and 25.09.2014;
 - iv. Inquiry report and record related to Disciplinary proceedings conducted against dresser, Asghar at the Hospital and him to be present at next hearing.
10. In response to the letter from this Commission, the MS submitted some record however record of patient pertaining to her treatment on 25.09.2014 and details of doctors involved in treatment of patient on 25.09.2014 have not been provided.
11. The Respondent Dr. Farooq Sandhu was directed to provide all necessary record and evidences, per orders of the Disciplinary Committee dated 03.06.2022. In response to the letter from this Commission, record was received from the Respondent on 24.08.2022, however, record of patient pertaining to her treatment on 25.09.2014 has not been provided.

VII. HEARING

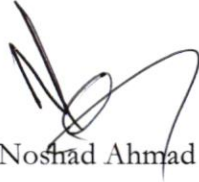
12. The matter was again fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 21.11.2022. Notices dated 14.11.2022 were issued to the Complainant and Respondent, Dr. Farooq Sandhu, directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 21.11.2022.
13. On the date of hearing, the Respondent doctor along with Dr. Zubair Younus Butt, Deputy Medical Superintendent marked their presence; however, the Complainant did not appear before the Disciplinary Committee.

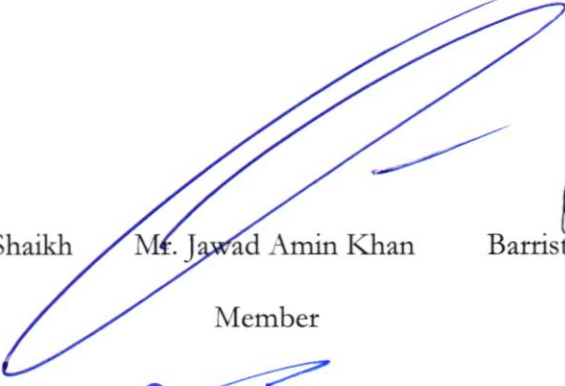
VIII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

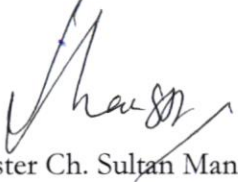
14. The Disciplinary Committee has perused the relevant record and submissions of the Respondent in the instant Complaint and noted that the Respondent doctor was a Post Graduate Resident


(PGR) at the time of the initial presentation of the Patient and has since completed his MS Surgery training in the year 2016.

15. The Expert inquired about the investigations i.e., X-rays, conducted for initial assessment of the patient along with other relevant details, to which the Respondent answered that the bullet was present. Upon further inquiry by the Expert regarding removal of the bullet and asked why wasn't it immediately dealt with, the Respondent doctor couldn't present a satisfactory response before the Disciplinary Committee. After analyzing the record and the expert enquiry, the Disciplinary Committee observed that after the initial management by the Respondent doctor in emergency, the patient was admitted for further management handing over the patient to his team members headed by Senior Registrar Dr. Mehmood Farooqi and thus four other doctors were also involved in the treatment of the patient as mentioned by Respondent in his written reply. The Committee therefore directs that the four doctors identified by the Respondent in his written reply be impleaded in the present proceedings, to consider the matter on the principles of merit and justice. Accordingly, the Disciplinary Committee directs that Show Cause Notices be issued to Dr. Mehmood Farooqi (SR), Dr. Mehmood (PGR), Dr. Ahmed Bilal (HO), and Dr. Umer.
16. The case is adjourned and shall be fixed before the Disciplinary Committee once the response/replies of all the newly impleaded respondents are received. The Complainant is also directed to ensure his presence at the next date of hearing.


Prof. Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh
Member


Mr. Jawad Amin Khan
Member


Barrister Ch. Sultan Mansoor
Secretary


Prof. Dr. Naqib Ullah Achakzai
Chairman

21/11 December, 2022