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Queensland Health

**BUNDABERG HEALTH SERVICE DISTRICT
MEDICAL SERVICES**Enquiries to: Dr Darren Keating
Telephone: 4150 2210
Facsimile: 4150 2029
Our Ref: DK-ja22nd October 2003The Complaints Unit
Medical Board of Queensland
GPO Box 2438
BRISBANE Q. 4001

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this letter to bring to your attention complaints about the professional conduct of Dr Tariq Qureshi. He is an overseas-trained medical practitioner, who has been employed by Bundaberg Health Service District as a RMO 3 since 29 July 2003. He is registered under Section 135 of the Medical Practitioners Registration Act 2001 and his registration number is 1031002.

P23 a patient at Bundaberg Base Hospital, has provided a written complaint (copy enclosed) to me as the Director of Medical Services about Dr Qureshi's actions during a physical examination of her. I interviewed P23 on 20 October 2003 at approximately 1500 hours to follow-up this complaint. Dr Qureshi was rostered to work in Medical Ward on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October 2003 for 0800 - 1200 hours. P23 alleges that on 18 October 2003 at approximately 1130 hours, Dr Qureshi examined her calf (as she had been admitted for a right calf deep vein thrombosis). Then he rubbed his hand up and down the inside of her right leg several times, reaching up into her thigh area, while speaking to her. This action made her feel uncomfortable.

Thereafter, when examining her chest, P23 alleges that Dr Qureshi pulled her t-shirt up above her breasts without her permission, played with her left breast and then began rubbing his hand between her breasts saying that she needed a chest massage. She alleges that Dr Qureshi finished his examination with touches to face and hair. The entire examination took approximately 10 minutes and there were no other people present. P23 was about to call for nursing staff assistance, when Dr Qureshi completed his examination. P23 complained that she felt very uncomfortable after this incident in the presence of Dr Qureshi. She was very upset about the incident and thought about all facets of the incident before reporting it, in writing, the following day.

I discussed this incident with Dr Qureshi on 20 October 2003 at approximately 1615 hours. He refutes the allegations, can't clearly remember the examination and believes that he would have examined P23 chest initially followed by her calf. Control measures have been put in place to ensure that Dr Qureshi has a chaperone present when consulting any female patient.

P23 is aware that this incident is being reported to the Medical Board and would be willing to be contacted should this be necessary. Her contact details are noted on the Complaint Form.

I wish to bring to your attention that a similar complaint was made by another patient, when Dr Qureshi was working in the Department of Emergency Medicine. On 27 August 2003,

presented to the department complaining of left breast pain/left chest wall pain.

alleged that Dr Qureshi spent a prolonged period examining her breast, moving it in all directions and re-examining it again after asking her to get dressed. She believed that the examination was inappropriate due to the prolonged period Dr Qureshi spent examining her breast and she was unhappy with the results of the consultation.

As Director of Medical Services, I discussed this complaint with Dr Qureshi on 28 August 2003. He was shocked by the complaint, although he acknowledged that he was slow and aimed to be thorough, despite relative inexperience in dealing with patients suffering from breast problems. He believed that his examination was conducted in a professional manner and the re-examination was related to the axilla only, in an effort to confirm initial physical findings. I counselled Dr Qureshi about the need to provide prior explanation to a patient about an examination, seek a patient's permission for examination of her breasts (and any internal examination required), ensure that the examination was completed in a professional manner and the requirement for a chaperone when possible. A follow-up phone call with the patient provided clearer explanation about the consultation and management, while acknowledging and apologising for a lack of communication between Dr Qureshi and the patient. She didn't wish the matter to progress further. She is unaware that this incident is being reported to the Medical Board.

These incidents are brought to your attention because of the significance of the allegations and a possible pattern, in order that an appropriate form of investigation by the Medical Board of Queensland can occur. I have explained to Dr Qureshi that these incidents would be forwarded to the Medical Board.

Should you require any further information, please contact my office on 07 4150 2210.

Yours sincerely


Dr Darren Keating
Director of Medical Services