

NOTICE OF REPRIMAND AND CONDITIONS

DR. ANTHONY ATKINSON, BRIDGEWATER, NOVA SCOTIA

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia hereby gives notice that pursuant to Section 53(12) of the *Medical Act*, Dr. Anthony Atkinson has consented to a reprimand and conditions issued by an Investigation Committee of the College.

Following receipt of information from the South Shore Regional Hospital concerning symptoms demonstrated by Dr. Atkinson in the hospital, the Investigation Committee of the College reviewed Dr. Atkinson's prior history with the College. After repeated advice from the College regarding Dr. Atkinson's use of alcohol because of risks it presented to his practice, Dr. Atkinson continued to engage in the use of alcohol. Dr. Atkinson denied using alcohol when practicing medicine or when on call. Assessments obtained by the College showed a past history of episodes of abuse of alcohol over a period of several years.

While the Committee accepted Dr. Atkinson's description of an acute illness to be the cause for the concerns forwarded by the South Shore Regional Hospital to the College, the Investigation Committee found him to have been unfit to practice on that date and to have shown poor judgement by entering the hospital in the critical care area with the knowledge that he may potentially have an infectious disease.

In agreeing with the consensual reprimand issued by the College, Dr. Atkinson also agreed to a number of conditions to be placed on his practice, the key provisions of which are as follows:

1. He must abstain from the use of alcohol;
2. He must engage in a testing program for the presence of alcohol, the costs of which will be borne by Dr. Atkinson; and
3. He must participate in an appropriate treatment and recovery program.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this first day of November, 2011.