

**College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta  
Hearing Tribunal Decision**

September 22, 2023

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BYLAW 19(7) OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

On September 24, 2023, a Hearing Tribunal of the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta found Dr. Murray Knebel guilty of unprofessional conduct and he was sanctioned. A Hearing Tribunal is an independent group of decision makers comprised of two members of the public appointed by the Government of Alberta and two dentists registered in Alberta.

Dr. Knebel admitted that he failed to appropriately address the patient's occlusal concerns including failing to perform an appropriate initial examination, failing to perform tests or take appropriate measurements; failing to provide an orthotic in a timely manner and failing to address the patient's occlusal issues prior to undertaking extensive restorative procedures. Dr. Knebel admitted that he failed to provide appropriate treatment to the patient, including failing to appropriately address decay, failing to recognize that a tooth was unsalvageable; failing to obtain or prepare a report for a CT scan performed and providing treatment when he knew, or should have known, it would need to be redone. Dr. Knebel admitted that he failed to obtain appropriate informed consent. Dr. Knebel admitted that he failed to follow expected standards for patient records.

The Hearing Tribunal agreed with the conclusions of the dental expert that Dr. Knebel did not appropriately address occlusal concerns or provide appropriate treatment. The Hearing Tribunal was particularly concerned that Dr. Knebel undertook extensive restorative procedures without first addressing the occlusal issues. The Hearing Tribunal agreed with the conclusions of the dental expert that Dr. Knebel failed to follow the expected standards for informed consent and patient records.

The Hearing Tribunal accepted Dr. Knebel's admissions and agreed the admissions were proven and constituted unprofessional conduct under the *Health Professions Act*.

**ORDERS OF THE HEARING TRIBUNAL**

The Hearing Tribunal accepted a Joint Submission on Penalty from the parties and issued the following orders on sanctions:

1. Dr. Knebel is reprimanded, with the decision of the Hearing Tribunal serving as the reprimand;
2. Dr. Knebel shall pay fines of \$5,000 for his failure to address occlusal concerns, \$5,000 for his failure to provide appropriate treatment, \$2,000 for his failure to obtain informed consent, \$2,000 for his failure to maintain patient records (for a total fine of \$14,000);
3. Dr. Knebel shall complete an approved course on patient record keeping;

4. For a period of one year, there will be coaching and mentoring of Dr. Knebel's prosthodontic and restorative practice.