

March 4, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Greg Eberhart
Registrar, Alberta College of Pharmacy
1100, 8215 112 Street
Edmonton AB T6G 2C8

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Subject: Alexandru Gabriel Radita – Public Fatality Inquiry
Response to Recommendations**

Please find enclosed a copy of the Honourable Justice S.L. Van de Veen's report to the Minister of Justice. This report will be publicly released on March 25, 2024. Please do not share the contents of the report in any manner that would cause it to become available publicly prior to this date.

The following recommendations made by Her Honour may impact the Alberta College of Pharmacy:

1. It is recommended that the College of Pharmacy address the evidence at the Inquiry concerning the role the pharmaceutical industry played in the tragic case of Alexandru Radita. The Inquiry is concerned the same practices by pharmacies may exist today and that there may be a need for the college to oversee regulatory safeguards relating to the provision of insulin without prescription by busy pharmacists at the request of caregivers of child patients.
2. It is recommended that pharmacists be required to not only maintain records of providing drugs including insulin, without a prescription from a physician, but also be required to upload their records on to NetCare so that these transactions can be accessed by other NetCare providers, including other pharmacists. There is doubt that there was an ongoing record on NetCare concerning the irregular pattern and amounts of insulin provided by pharmacists in the Radita case over an extended period of time.
3. The existing Alberta College of Pharmacists Code of Ethics, principal 1(7) states that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians use their knowledge, skills and resources to "safeguard the well-being of each patient and in particular any patient who is vulnerable." It is recommended that the College consider

standards specifically requiring pharmacists to carry out an assessment of patients who rely upon them in a long-term situation for drugs that can be provided by pharmacists without a prescription, such as insulin, especially if a caregiver repeatedly fills the prescription for a child who has never been seen by the pharmacist.

4. It is further recommended that if a caregiver fails to produce the patient for the assessment requested by a pharmacist that the pharmacist consider reporting the matter to Social Services in accordance with the provisions of section 4 (1) of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act. This section requires any person who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a child is in need of intervention shall forthwith report the matter to a director or a police officer.
5. It is recommended that the College of Pharmacy collaborate with Alberta Child and Family Services and other stakeholders in the examination of the general alert system described in recommendation number 5 of the Recommendations Relating to Child and Family Services found at page 36 and 37 of this report.

I ask that you please advise the following:

1. Whether the Alberta College of Pharmacy accepts, accepts in principle, does not accept, or has a different response to the recommendations;
2. A brief explanation of why that decision was made; and
3. If the Alberta College of Pharmacy intends to accept the recommendations, or to implement different measures, what steps will be taken in that regard.

A response to this enquiry is not mandatory. However, be advised that any response received will be publicly released and posted on the Open Government Portal:

<https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/responses-to-public-fatality-inquiry-recommendations>.

If a response has not been received by July 25, 2024, (four months after the public release date), that information will also be made publicly available.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Abid Mavani

Abid Mavani
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator

Encl – Report of Justice Van de Veen