



**Report of the Fitness to Practise Committee
following an Inquiry held pursuant to Part 8
of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007**

Registered Medical Practitioner:	Dr Mona Abdelati
Registration Number:	089088
Registered Address:	29 The Court Lake Point Park Mullingar Co Westmeath
Date of Inquiry:	12 th October & 28 th November, 5 th December 2012
Members of Inquiry Committee:	Mr Brendan Broderick (Chair) Ms Mary Culliton Mr Brendan Healy
Legal Assessor:	Ms Patricia Dillon SC
Appearances - For the Chief Executive:	Mr. JP Mc Dowell of Mc Dowell Purcell Solicitors.
For the Practitioner:	Mr Simon Mills BL instructed by Mr Terence Moran of Hayes Solicitors

Findings of the Committee:

Allegation 1:

That Dr Abdelati failed to satisfy herself that Mr Quinn had a Drug Treatment card or otherwise satisfy herself that he was registered on the Central Treatment List.

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee decided to make no finding in relation to Allegation 1.

Allegation 2:

That Dr Abdelati was not contracted by the Health Services Executive (“HSE”) to dispense methadone.

Allegation 2 was admitted as to fact.

Allegation 2 did amount to poor professional performance.

Reason: Applying the standard of competence of a doctor practising medicine of the kind practised by Dr Abdelati, namely, that a general practitioner should have been aware that there were regulations, or rules, or protocols, governing the prescribing of methadone.

Allegation 3:

That Dr Abdelati did not have any or adequate training in the treatment of opiate addiction and/or the dispensing of methadone.

Allegation 3 was admitted as to fact

Allegation 3 did amount to poor professional performance.

Reason: A competent GP practising medicine of the kind practised by Dr Abdelati should have been aware of the requirement to have training in the treatment of opiate addiction and/or prescription of methadone, prior to embarking on same. The Committee is satisfied that a competent GP would be familiar with their obligations as per the provisions set out in the Medical Council’s Ethical Guide under paragraph 59 prior to embarking on the treatment of opiate addiction or the prescription of methadone.

Allegation 4:

That Dr Abdelati failed to notify the HSE of the name, address and date of birth of Mr Quinn.

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee decided to make no finding in relation to Allegation 4.

Allegation 5:

That Dr Abdelati failed to instruct the dispensing pharmacist that the methadone should be divided into daily doses

Allegation 5 was admitted as to fact.

Allegation 5 did amount to poor professional performance.

Reason: The Committee is satisfied that a competent GP practising medicine of the kind practised by Dr Abdelati should have instructed the dispensing pharmacist about the division of daily doses. The Committee noted the evidence of Dr McGovern in this regard. The Committee further noted that there was no consultation with any readily available colleague prior to issuing the prescription.

Allegation 6:

That Dr Abdelati failed to give any or adequate consideration to other treatment strategies to include hospital admission or the prescribing of an appropriate dose of benzodiazepines.

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee decided to make no finding in relation to Allegation 6.

Other matters relating to the registered medical practitioner the subject of the complaint which the Committee considers appropriate to specify:

- The Committee note the impact which this tragic event has had on Mr Quinn's family and on Dr Abdelati.
- The Committee were impressed with the honesty of the evidence presented by Dr Abdelati and accept that her actions were governed wholly by compassion and a desire to be helpful and draw reassurance from her affirmation that she will manage similar situations in the future fully in accordance with statutory regulations and the guidelines set out in the Medical Council's Ethical Guide.
- The Committee note the extensive re-education carried out by the doctor into methadone prescribing.
- The Committee, having heard the evidence, is satisfied that no issue of public safety exists.

Brendan Broderick,

Chairperson

13/12/12

Date