

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(20)11

AND

MATTHEW SPENCER (01-15277)

**NOTICE OF INQUIRY
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

Take notice that an inquiry will be conducted in the above matter by the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council and will commence at **09:00 hrs** on **Monday 21 September to Friday 25 September 2020**.

Venue: via video conference facilities. The details of which will be communicated to you via email.

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Matthew Spencer** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

David Reeder
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

24 April 2020

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Matthew Spencer (01-15277), a registered Optometrist:

- 1) On or around 8 June 2015 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
 - a) Failed to conduct a dilated retinal examination of Patient A's eyes.
 - b) Failed to clearly record your reason for not dilating Patient A's eyes at this examination;
 - c) Failed to record the extent of Patient A's lens opacities (cataracts);
 - d) Failed to record informing Patient A of her lens opacities (cataracts);
 - e) Failed to discuss and/or record discussing with Patient A the option of cataract surgery;
 - f) Failed to appropriately refer Patient A to the hospital eye service in relation to cataract surgery.

- 2) On or around 20 May 2016 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
 - a) Failed to record the extent of Patient A's lens opacities (cataracts);
 - b) Failed to discuss and/or record discussing with Patient A the option of cataract surgery;
 - c) Dismissed Mr B's suggestion that Patient A's cataracts could be treated at hospital;
 - d) Failed to appropriately refer and/or record a discussion with regards to referring Patient A to the hospital eye service in relation to cataract surgery.

- 3) On or around 10 May 2017 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
 - a) Failed to record the extent of Patient A's lens opacities (cataracts);
 - b) Failed to discuss and/or record discussing with Patient A the option of cataract surgery;

- c) Dismissed Mr B's suggestion that Patient A's cataracts could be treated at an hospital;
 - d) Failed to appropriately refer and/or record a discussion with regards to referring Patient A to the hospital eye service in relation to cataract surgery.
- 4) On or around 16 April 2018 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
- a) Failed to record the extent of Patient A's lens opacities (cataracts);
 - b) Failed to discuss and/or record discussing with Patient A the option of cataract surgery;
 - c) Dismissed Mr B's suggestion that Patient A's cataracts could be treated at an hospital;
 - d) Failed to appropriately refer Patient A to the hospital eye service in relation to cataract surgery.
- 5) On or around 30 October 2018 you conducted a sight test on Patient A and you:
- a) Failed to record the extent of Patient A's lens opacities (cataracts);
 - b) Failed to discuss and/or record discussing with Patient A the option of cataract surgery;
 - c) Failed to appropriately refer Patient A to the hospital eye service for further investigation of the signs of cataracts.

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Committee Members: Ms A Johnstone (Lay)
Ms V Geary (Lay)
Mr D Abbott (Lay)
Mr E McMillan (Optometrist)
Ms A Ali (Optometrist)

Legal Adviser: Ms M Coutino

Hearings Officer: TBC

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at hearings@optical.org.