DMC/DC/F.14/Comp.2783/2/2021/ 01st October, 2021

**O R D E R**

The Delhi Medical Council through its Disciplinary Committee examined a representation from Police Station South Rohini, Delhi, seeking medical opinion on a complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar s/o late Shri Gyanchand r/o J-1076 Mangolpuri, Delhi, alleging medical negligence in the treatment administered to the complainant’s wife Smt. Babita at Prashanti Nursing Home, H-32/9, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

The Order of the Disciplinary Committee dated 27th July, 2021 is reproduced herein-below :-

The Disciplinary Committee of the Delhi Medical Council examined a representation from police seeking medical opinion on a complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar s/o late Shri Gyanchand r/o J-1076 Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083 (referred hereinafter as the complainant), alleging medical negligence in the treatment administered to the complainant’s wife Smt. Babita (referred hereinafter as the patient) at Prashanti Nursing Home, H-32/9, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 (refereed hereinafter as the said Nursing Home).

The Disciplinary Committee perused representation from the police, complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar, joint written statement of Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal, Medical Superintendent of Prashanti Nursing Home and Dr. Anita Uniyal, Gynaecologist, Prashanti Nursing Home, copy of medical records of Prashanti Nursing Home and other documents on record.

The following were heard in person :-

1. Shri Pradeep Complainant
2. Dr. Anilta Uniyal Gynaecologist, Prashanti Nursing Home
3. Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal Medical Superintendent, Prashanti Nursing

Home

The Disciplinary Committee noted that Sister Suman Lata failed to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, inspite of notice. Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal, Medical Superintendent, Prashanti Nursing Home stated that Sister Sumanlata is no longer associated with Prashanti Nursing Home but she has been informed about the hearing in this case.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that the police in its representation has averred that on 06th April, 2019, PCR calls vide DD No. 31A and 33A PS South Rohini regarding wrong treatment at Prashanti Nursing Home at Sector-3, Rohini, were received and the same were marked to ASI Subhash Chand No.3045/Rd. Accordingly, the complainant was approached but the complainant did not give any statement, so the call was kept pending investigation. On the next day i.e. 07th April, 2019 MLC No.14979/19 was received from Jaipur Golden Hospital of the patient Babita w/o Shri Pardeep. The complainant Babita got her statement recorded, which stated that on 30th March, 2019, she delivered a baby girl in Prashanti Nursing Home. During the treatment, she needed two units of blood transfused and one unit was transfused rightly but second unit blood was found expired, which caused reaction and made her sick. She was admitted further in BSA Hospital by Prashanti Nursing Home. On 07th April, 2019, she again got admitted back to Prashanti Nursing Home. The complainant said that the negligence of Prashanti Nursing Home by transfusing wrong blood into her body made her sick and her body got reactions. Again on 09th April, 2019 another complaint was received from Pardeep, husband of Babita. The complainant was called but did not turn up. Finally, he got his statement recorded on 24th April, 2019, alleging wrong treatment by infusing expired blood into the body of her wife causing reaction. It is, therefore, requested to look into the matter and opine medical negligence, if any on the part of the doctors of the Prashanti Nursing Home who had treated the victim on 06th April, 2019 to 16th April, 2019.

The complainant Shri Pradeep alleged that on 30th March, 2019 at around 9.00 a.m., his wife (the patient) Smt. Babita was admitted in the Prashanti Nursing Home. His wife delivered a female baby. The doctors asked him to arrange for two units of O positive blood, which he arranged from a Pitampura Blood Banak. However, the doctor’s negligently transfused AB positive blood to his wife, because of which, her condition worsened. His wife was then referred to Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital. Since, no treatment was being given to her; he took his wife to Jaipur Golden Hospital. It is alleged that the life of his wife was endangered due to the medical negligence of the doctors of Prashanti Nursing Home and thus, strict action be taken against them.

Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal, Medical Superintendent of Prashanti Nursing Home and Dr. Anita Uniyal, Gynaecologist, Prashanti Nursing Home in their joint written statement averred that the mother patient Smt. Babita wife of the complainant, 31 years old female, was admitted on 30th March, 2019 at 09.045 a.m. in Prashanti Nursing Home as a case of full term pregnancy with labour pains. As routine on admission, the Nursing Home got her CBC blood examination done and in the test reports, her haemoglobin was found to be 7.7 gm/dl. In view of the low level of haemoglobin in the blood, it was thought prudent to give her two units of blood and accordingly, the attendant was asked to arrange for two units of O positive blood, which was brought by them and verified by them. In the meantime, the patient delivered normally a healthy female baby at 01.07 p.m. on 30th March, 2019. Since in view of low level of haemoglobin, it had been planned to infuse two units of blood, the blood transfusion was started. The first unit of blood was transfused uneventfully. The transfusion was started at 01.50 p.m. and the general condition of the patient was good. There was no reaction after transfusion of the first unit of blood. The second unit of blood was started at 07.30 p.m. by sister Sumanlata and after sometime at 08.00 p.m., the patient developed rigors and the blood was immediately discontinued. On checking, it was found that some other unit of blood had been started by the sister and it was a mistake on her part, resulting into transfusion complication. The patient was given injection Avil and Injection Dexona. At about 10.15 p.m., the patient started bleeding P/V(per vagina) and was shifted to the labour room. Few clots were removed and injection Syntocinon, injection Prostaden, injection Mithagin, I/v fluid, etc., were given. At about 10.30, the patient complained of ghabraht and fever. After checking of the label on the blood container and the records, it was revealed that there was an error in identifying the blood unit. All measures were taken to control the reaction and when the need arose, the patient was shifted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, the nearest big hospital without any undue delay, as the patient might require ICU and other tertiary care facilities. The patient remained admitted in Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital for few days and thereafter, the complainant shifted the patient to Jaipur Golden Hospital from where, after treatment for some days, the patient was discharged hale and hearty.

They further averred that whereas the factum of transfusion of wrong blood remains a matter of record, but the same was neither deliberate nor intentional, as alleged, but was a clerical error on the part of the hospital staff, wherein there was an error in identifying the blood unit. There was no criminal intent to harm the patient in this case and the complainant is putting bald allegations against the doctors of the hospital. The allegations of the complainant against the doctors of attempting murder of the patient by connivance of the doctors is patently false, motivated and wrong and is vehemently and specifically denied. The treating doctors treated the mother patient as per established protocols using requisite knowledge, skills and due care, therefore, neither any negligence nor any deficiency can be attributed to the treating doctors or the hospital in rendering the treatment of the mother patient or her newly born baby, except transfusion of one wrong unit of blood reaction and when the situation demanded, the patient was referred to higher medical centre as per protocols for further management. Thus, no criminal motives or intentions can be attached against the treating doctors in this case and by no stretch of imagination any criminal case is made out in this case. The fact of transfusion of wrong unit of blood was duly intimated to the attendants of the patient and all steps were taken to control the blood reaction. The patient party was never kept in dark and was kept informed of the developments/prognosis at every stage. The requisite medication was given to the patient to control the blood reaction. When need was felt that the patient might require ICU facilities, the patient was shifted to a higher medical centre in the close vicinity of the Prashant Nursing Home, in the best interest of the patient. The patient got treatment in Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital for some days, but latter on the complainant, on his own, took her to Jaipur Golden Hospital, for where; she was discharged in good condition.

On enquiry by the Disciplinary Committee, Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal admitted that expired blood was lying in the refrigerator of the Nursing Home.

In view of the above, the Disciplinary Committee makes the following observations :-

1. The patient, Smt. Babita, 31 years old female with full term pregnancy, was admitted in the said Nursing Home at 09.45 a.m. on 30th March, 2019, under Dr. Anita Uniyal. She delivered normally a female baby, at 01.07 p.m. on 30th March, 2019, itself. As her HB was 7.7 gml, two units of blood transfusion was prescribed. The first unit was transfused at 01.50 p.m. and the same was uneventful. The second unit was transfused at 07.30 p.m., however, the patient developed rigors and blood transfusion was stopped. Since, the patient had blood reaction, the management for the same was initiated, however, the patient started bleeding per vagina and her blood-pressure started falling, she was, thus, shifted to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital at 10.15 p.m.

An MLC (No.14979) was initiated at Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, as per which, the provisional diagnosis of Transfusion reaction was made. The patient was admitted in Baba Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital on 31st March, 2019 and diagnosed as PNCO with Jaundice Acute kidney injury dialysis and treated conservatively. The patient went on LAMA on 07th April, 2019.

The patient subsequently received treatment at Jaipur Golden Hospital where she was admitted on 07th April, 2019 with complaints of breathing difficulty, jaundice, decrease urine output, and swelling all over the body. The patient on evaluation was found to have AKI secondary to hemorrhagic shock (PPH) + puerperal sepsis → DIC. She required short term dialysis support. Last haemodialysis was done on 14th April, 2019. Sepsis was controlled with appropriate broad spectrum antibiotics. She was given one unit of SDP + two units of PRBC. Her condition improved and she was discharged on 16th April, 2019.

1. It is observed that the attendant of the patient Babita, 31 years old female brought two units of O positive packed red blood cells from Pitampura Blood Bank. The first transfusion was started at 01.50 p.m. on 30th March, 2019 (O positivie) and was uneventful. The second transfusion was done at 07.30 p.m. on 30th March, 2019 with AB positive packed red blood cells, which had already expired (date of expiry-13/03/2019. The bag had stickers of Brahm Shakti Blood Bank). The transfusing person (Smt. Suman Lata, Nursing Sister) did not check the name of person or other details on compatibility report (blood group of bag and that of the patient and expiry date of bag). This led to wrong transfusion of expired blood of different blood group (AB to group O patient) which is the probable cause of acute kidney injury in this patient.

It was noted during the hearing that expired blood bag was lying in the refrigerator of the said Nursing Home, which was wrongly transfused. The date of issue of AB positive blood bag was 13th February, 2019 (Date of expiry -13/03/2019), which was wrongly transfused to the patient on 30th March, 2019. The said Nursing Home should have written guidance/protocols on use/return/discard of blood/component bags which are not transfused to the patients. Unused blood bags should not be kept lying in refrigerator.

In light of the observations made herein-above, it is the decision of the Disciplinary Committee that no medical negligence can be attributed individually on the part of Dr. Anita Uniyal or Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal, in the treatment administered to the complainant’s wife Smt. Babita at Prashanti Nursing Home. However, the Disciplinary Committee recommends that a warning be issued to Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal (Delhi Medical Council Registration No.16048) for his serious lapse for not adhering to standard transfusion protocols as an Administrator. The said Nursing Home should do regular training of junior doctors and nursing staff on practices of transfusing blood/components to ensure that wrong blood is not transfused to the patient’s, in future. There should be a list of checks to be made before the transfusion is started and transfusion monitoring form should be filed. Further, acopy of this Order be also sent to the Delhi Nursing Council for taking appropriate action against Ms. Sumanlata, Nursing Staff for the lapse on her part highlighted in the Order.

Matter stands disposed.

Sd/: Sd/:

(Dr. Maneesh Singhal) (Dr. Anil Kumar Yadav)

Chairman, Eminent Publicman,

Disciplinary Committee Member,

Disciplinary Committee

Sd/: Sd/:

(Dr. G.S. Grewal) (Dr. Sangeeta Pahuja)

Delhi Medical Association, Expert Member,

Member, Disciplinary Committee

Disciplinary Committee

The Order of the Disciplinary Committee dated 27th July, 2021 was confirmed by the Delhi Medical Council in its meeting held on 23rd September, 2021.

The Council also confirmed the punishment of warning awarded by the Disciplinary Committee to Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal (Delhi Medical Council Registration No.16048).

By the Order & in the name of

Delhi Medical Council

(Dr. Girish Tyagi)

Secretary

Copy to :-

1. Shri Pradeep Kumar, s/o late Shri Gyanchand, Through S.H.O. Police Station South Rohini, Sector-3, Delhi-110085-**with a request to serve this Order upon Shri Pradeep Kumar-w.r.t. DD No.31A & 33A dated 06/04/2019 PS South Rohini, Delhi.**
2. Dr. Anita Uniyal, Through Medical Superintendent, Prashanti Nursing Home, H-32/9, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085
3. Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal, Medical Superintendent, Prashanti Nursing Home, H-32/9, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085.
4. Ms. Suman Lata, A-164/3, Raj Park Sultan Puri, New Delhi-110086.
5. S.H.O. Police Station South Rohini, Sector-3, Delhi-110085-w.r.t. DD No.31A & 33A dated 06/04/2019 PS South Rohini, Delhi-**for information**.
6. Registrar, Delhi Nursing Council, A. B.College of Nursing Building, L.N.Hospital, Mirdard Marg, LNJP Colony, New Delhi, Delhi 110002
7. National Medical Commission, Pocket-14, Phase-1, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077-**for information**.
8. Registrar, Uttar Pradesh Medical Council, 5, Sarvapally Mall Avenue Road, Lucknow-226001, Uttar Pradesh (**Dr. Naval Kishore Uniyal is also registered with Uttar Pradesh Medical Council under registration No-27095 dated 05th March, 1983**)-**for information & necessary action**.

(Dr. Girish Tyagi)

Secretary