

# Photo 'etched' in woman's mind forever

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the college Thursday.

Phipps admits to showing four photos of himself in various stages of undress to several patients and staff, and that this constitutes the college charge of disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional conduct.

He denies the college allegation that his conduct amounts to sexual abuse of patients.

The photos are as follows: one where Phipps is naked with his penis visible, one of Phipps' naked buttocks, one where he's naked from the groin up, but where the genitals are not visible, and a fourth showing him naked with a towel over his arm.

The first three have been filed as exhibits at the discipline hearing, while Phipps admits to deleting the fourth from his cell-phone.

His lawyer, Jenny Ste-

phenson, walked Phipps through the photo-sharing incidents Thursday, briefly displaying them to the five-member discipline panel, careful not to give a glimpse to the audience.

Phipps said one of the photos was taken while he was on a golfing trip with friends in Arizona in 2012, and meant for his wife.

He recounted how one of his friends was trying to show a woman at the next table at the restaurant a photo on Phipps' phone, but that the two inadvertently saw the naked picture instead. Everyone thought it was funny, he said.

Flash forward to 2014, when Phipps began telling patients - mostly those whom he had known for many years - as well as a few staff members this story, and showed them one or more naked selfies.

Not many of them found it funny, he would later realize.

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*"I couldn't believe I had actually done this and didn't think about the extreme inappropriateness of all this. I now know that that story is not very funny and completely inappropriate."*

Dr. Nigel Phipps

actually done this and didn't think about the extreme inappropriateness of all this," Phipps testified of the moment he realized the repercussions of his actions, when he learned the CPSO was investigating him. "I now know that that story is not very funny and completely inappropriate."

Phipps said he's "devastated" about the impact the showing of the photos has had on his patients, and that he co-operated with the college probe. "I didn't mean to hurt them in any way, shape or form ... I was just so oblivious."

He maintained that he

was "positive" that he did not have an erection while showing photos to one patient, contrary to what the woman testified.

He also said the four photos are the only ones he showed to patients and staff, despite several complainants testifying that they saw different pictures.

One patient was adamant she saw a different photo of his genitals.

"The penis I recall seeing was in a downward position as well, but slightly more engorged," she testified in July.

Another patient, known as Patient K due to a publi-

cation ban on patients' identities, said last Thursday that in the photo she saw, Phipps looked more fit and his pubic hair area was groomed.

Patient K was one of three new complainants who came forward to the college after reading media reports, including in the Star, of the first half of Phipps' discipline hearing in the summer.

The remainder of the hearing had been postponed until October because of a medical condition - revealed Thursday to be throat cancer - that made it difficult for Phipps to testify.

Under cross-examination by Stephenson, Phipps' lawyer, Patient K was questioned on whether it's possible she confused some of the details of the photo she saw. Patient K stood her ground.

"That is basically etched in my mind for the rest of my life," she said.

When Stephenson began to say, "It was three years ago," Patient K replied:

"In three years I still know what my doctor looks like naked, and that's not something I should ever have to know."

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