

SPSO decision report

Case: 201203630, A Medical Practice in the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board area

Sector: health

Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis

Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Miss C was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in 2007. She complained that a GP at her medical practice incorrectly advised her to stop taking high blood pressure medication after she reported experiencing side effects. The GP had prescribed the medication for Miss C in 2008 because her blood pressure was elevated and this could have affected her kidney function. Miss C also complained that her kidney function continued to decrease but nothing was done to address this. In addition, she was unhappy that the GP did not properly investigate pain she had reported having in her side.

After taking independent advice from one of our medical advisers, we did not uphold Miss C's complaints. Our investigation found no evidence that the GP had advised Miss C to discontinue the blood pressure medication. We considered that this was unlikely to have affected the progression of her CKD because she was managed in accordance with the national guidelines for the condition. Had Miss C been diagnosed with high blood pressure and had a significant amount of protein in her urine then it would have been appropriate for her to have remained on the medication. We also considered that there was no indication that the GP needed to make an urgent referral in relation to the backache Miss A had reported and that appropriate pain relief and a referral to physiotherapy was made.