

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 201803620, Lanarkshire NHS Board  
**Sector:** Health  
**Subject:** clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** not upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

Mr C complained that there was an unreasonable delay in diagnosing his late mother (Mrs A) with cancer. Mrs A had a number of consultations in the respiratory clinic at University Hospital Monklands and had a background of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (a type of lung condition that causes breathing difficulties) and bronchiectasis (a long-term condition where the airways of the lungs become abnormally widened). During the period of care under consideration, Mrs A experienced an increase in frequency of chest infections, and her chest x-ray results showed progressive changes.

We took independent advice from a consultant in respiratory medicine. We found that it was reasonable to consider that the progressive changes, and increase in symptoms, to be part of the progression of Mrs A's lung disease. In this context, we found that it was reasonable that investigations were not arranged earlier. We did not find that there had been a delay in diagnosing Mrs A's cancer and therefore we did not uphold Mr C's complaint.