

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 202000476, A Medical Practice in the Tayside NHS Board area  
**Sector:** Health  
**Subject:** Clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** not upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

C complained to the practice about a delay in prescribing them with medication for high blood pressure, and as a result C suffered a heart attack. C said that they had attended the practice on a number of occasions within a few months with recurring chest pains, breathlessness and dizziness. C had their blood pressure read and electrocardiograms (ECGs) taken a number of times. C saw a GP and reported chest pain and dizziness. The GP put this down to muscle spasm and arranged another ECG and blood pressure reading. C was then given tablets for their blood pressure. The following day, C was admitted to hospital to have a stent inserted as they had suffered a heart attack.

The practice explained that C had had a number of contacts within a few months, and was seen by 11 GPs. Most of the contacts related to C's respiratory problems of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). C's blood pressure was discussed with a GP and further readings were arranged either at the practice or read by C at their home and telephoned to the practice. It was when C reported chest pain a few months later that further investigations were conducted and the decision was taken to provide antihypertensive medication (used to lower high blood pressure).

We took independent clinical advice from a GP. We found that the practice had provided a reasonable standard of treatment to C. Their blood pressure readings were monitored both in the practice and at home and subsequently, arrangements were made to prescribe medication when it was appropriate to do so. We did not uphold the complaint.