

SPSO decision report

Case: 201004885, Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board
Sector: health
Subject: clinical treatment; diagnosis
Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Mrs C's son, Mr A, was admitted to hospital in October 2010 with abdominal pain and vomiting. He was taken to theatre the following day where a laparotomy (a surgical procedure involving a large incision through the abdominal wall to gain access into the abdominal cavity) was performed. He was discharged five days later but re-admitted the next day with clostridium difficile and diarrhoea.

Mrs C complained that there had been a delay in carrying out the operation and that the decision to discharge Mr A on the day he was discharged was inappropriate. She also complained that staff had not taken reasonable action to prevent Mr A from contracting clostridium difficile. We sought advice from our clinical advisers and it was decided that there was no delay in taking Mr A to theatre; the discharge on the day in question was appropriate; and that there was no evidence that Mr A was suffering from clostridium difficile on discharge from the hospital.