

SPSO decision report

Case: 201508103, A Medical Practice in the Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board area
Sector: health
Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis
Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Mr C complained about the care and treatment he received from his medical practice. He was concerned that the GP inappropriately prescribed him steroid medication for asthma which caused his heart rate to increase, requiring hospital treatment. Mr C felt that his GP dismissed his ongoing concerns about his heart rate and breathlessness.

We took independent advice from a GP adviser and considered that it was appropriate that Mr C's GP diagnosed worsening asthma and prescribed steroid medication in accordance with national guidance. In addition, whilst Mr C had been diagnosed previously with atrial fibrillation (where the heart beats irregularly and faster than normal), the type of steroid prescribed was not specifically associated with this condition. Therefore we considered that it was reasonable practice to prescribe this treatment and did not uphold Mr C's complaint.