

SPSO decision report

Case: 201508482, A Medical Practice in the Highland NHS Board area

Sector: health

Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis

Outcome: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Miss C complained that a GP with whom she had been discussing rape and sexual assault unreasonably referred her to a psychiatrist. In particular, Miss C raised concerns that the medical practice had been dismissive of her history and circumstances. She also raised concerns that the practice referred her unreasonably on the basis of previous psychiatric history. She said that the referral should have been to another specialist.

The practice said that the GP referred her to the psychiatrist as it was clinically indicated to do so. They also said the referral was not based on Miss C's previous psychiatric history, but on the GP's concerns about Miss C. The practice also understood that Miss C was in contact with a rape counselling service.

After receiving independent medical advice, we did not uphold Miss C's complaint. We found the referral was reasonable based on the clinical signs recorded in the medical records, which may have been consistent with certain mental health conditions. We also found that the GP considered appropriately the reported history of abuse in making the referral.