

SPSO decision report

Case: 201508647, Tayside NHS Board
Sector: health
Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis
Outcome: upheld, recommendations

Summary

Mrs C complained on behalf of her husband (Mr A) about the way a consultant at Ninewells Hospital managed his care and treatment following the discovery of a nodule (a growth of abnormal tissue) in his lung. Mr A was reviewed over three years and then received a letter discharging him from the clinic because the nodule appeared stable. At Mrs C's persistence, the consultant reviewed Mr A again and further investigation identified that the nodule was a slow growth tumour.

We took independent medical advice and found that Mr A had been appropriately managed up until being discharged from the clinic. However, we considered that Mr A's latest scan results should have been discussed at a multi-disciplinary team meeting prior to taking the decision to discharge him as it showed other lung changes. We also found it unreasonable that the consultant had referred to these lung changes in the discharge letter rather than discussing them in person with Mr A.

Recommendations

We recommended that the board:

- apologise to Mr A for unreasonably discharging him from the service; and
- draw these findings to the attention of the consultant to discuss at their next appraisal.