

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 201702338, Highland NHS Board  
**Sector:** health  
**Subject:** clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** not upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

Mrs C complained about the treatment provided to her late husband (Mr A) by an advanced nurse practitioner (ANP). The ANP had attended Mr A at his nursing home as staff had reported that he was having breathing problems. Mrs C said that the ANP did not make arrangements for Mr A to be assessed by a doctor or arrange for him to be taken to hospital. Mr A continued to have breathing issues and was admitted to hospital the following day, where he died two days later.

We took independent advice from a nursing adviser. We concluded that the ANP had carried out an appropriate clinical assessment of Mr A's condition by listening to his chest and establishing that there was no evidence of a chest infection or that Mr A was in respiratory distress. We found that the ANP had also appropriately prescribed a treatment to assist Mr A's breathing, and that there was no indication at that time that Mr A had to be reviewed by a doctor or should have been referred to hospital for a specialist opinion. We did not uphold the complaint.