

SPSO decision report



Case: 201801256, Grampian NHS Board
Sector: health
Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis
Decision: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Mr C complained that he was not made aware of the risk of having a skin-sensitive test before it was performed and that the board failed to ensure the test was carried out in a reasonable way. Mr C suffered from urticaria (hives) and he underwent a Minimal Erythema Dose (MED, short exposure to ultraviolet radiation) test to help inform phototherapy (light) treatment for the condition. Mr C said that after the test he was left with scarring on his lower back.

We took independent advice from a specialist in dermatology (the branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders). We found that there was evidence that the treatment was confirmed to Mr C and the possible side-effects were explained to him. We also found that Mr C signed the form saying the treatment and side-effects had been explained to him. Therefore, we did not uphold this aspect of Mr C's complaint.

In relation to how the test was carried out, we found that Mr C experienced a normal darkening of his skin as a result of the process and this was temporary. We also found that there was no evidence to show the test was carried out in an unreasonable way. Therefore, we did not uphold this aspect of Mr C's complaint.