

SPSO decision report

Case: 201809483, Grampian NHS Board
Sector: Health
Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis
Decision: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Following lower back surgery, Mr C complained about pain in his mid-back which had not been there before. Further reviews of Mr C's symptoms were carried out by the orthopaedic (conditions involving the musculoskeletal system) department and the pain clinic but the cause of his pain, and the pain itself, was not resolved. Mr C considers that his original surgery was not carried out properly and that something went wrong to cause his pain.

The board confirmed that Mr C's original surgery was carried out to alleviate leg pain. They said guidelines stated that surgeons should not operate for back pain alone and confirmed that further surgery in Mr C's case was unlikely to help. The board explained that Mr C had been reviewed by a different orthopaedic consultant, and a second opinion had been sought from a consultant in another board area, both of whom agreed that further surgery would not help the symptoms of pain in Mr C's back.

We took independent advice from an orthopaedic consultant. We found reasonable history and examinations of Mr C were carried out and that appropriate scans and referrals were made. We concluded that the board provided appropriate treatment in view of Mr C's presenting symptoms. We did not uphold Mr C's complaint.