

SPSO decision report

Case: 201911968, Lothian NHS Board - Acute Division
Sector: Health
Subject: Clinical treatment / diagnosis
Decision: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

C complained on behalf of their partner (A) about the care and treatment provided by the board when A had hip replacement surgery. Specifically, C complained about the management of A's pain in the post-operative period. The board acknowledged the discomfort experienced by A, but when it became apparent that surgeons could not manage A's pain effectively, the Pain Management Team was involved. The board considered the care delivered following surgery, and in reducing medication after discharge, was reasonable.

We took independent advice from an anaesthetics and pain management adviser. We found that whilst pain management in the post-operative period is challenging, the board's management of A's pain was reasonable following surgery. We did not uphold this aspect of the complaint.

Additionally, we found that, with respect to reducing A's medication, the advice provided by the board to A following discharge was appropriate. On this basis, we did not uphold this aspect of the complaint.