

SPSO decision report



Case: 202006396, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board - Acute Services Division
Sector: Health
Subject: Clinical treatment / diagnosis
Decision: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

C underwent a hysterectomy (surgery to remove the womb) and although the procedure was considered successful, C began to bleed from scar tissue soon after the operation. An ultrasound scan (a scan that uses sound waves to create images of organs and structures inside the body) showed blood clots in C's pelvis and C was kept in hospital in case further surgery was required. C was given blood thickeners and a blood transfusion. C developed a chest infection and suffered from further complications.

C raised complaints about their care and treatment following their initial surgery with Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board. C raised a number of specific concerns about their post-operative complications and their management. C was also concerned about the surgery, or that the post-operative complications had caused the nodule on their lung, which was subsequently identified as lung cancer.

We took independent advice from a gynaecology (medicine of the female genital tract and its disorders) adviser. We found that C's care and treatment was reasonable and that C had experienced significant post-operative complications, but that these were appropriately managed. We noted that there was no evidence that C received inadequate consultant input post-surgery, or that C's complications were as a result of the surgery being performed poorly or inappropriately. We found that the board were correct to say that there was no relation between C's surgery and the subsequent health issues that they faced. We also found no fault with the level of physiotherapy support offered to C.

We concluded that C's medical records showed that they were regularly reviewed by a physiotherapist and that the exercises that were provided to C were also reasonable and appropriate. As such, we did not uphold C's complaint.