

SPSO decision report

Case: 201701462, Lanarkshire NHS Board
Sector: health
Subject: clinical treatment / diagnosis
Decision: not upheld, no recommendations

Summary

Ms C complained about the treatment she received at Wishaw General Hospital. Ms C became pregnant and had a high body mass index (BMI, a measure for estimating human body fat) when she booked in for a scan. As a result, Ms C was tested for gestational diabetes (diabetes that develops in women who did not have diabetes before their pregnancy) and was later prescribed medication to reduce her high blood sugar levels. This dose was later increased as her blood sugar levels remained high. Ms C was admitted to hospital as her baby stopped growing and had an emergency caesarean section to deliver her baby. After she was discharged home, Ms C developed an infection and her stitches burst. She later went on to develop nerve damage and fibromyalgia (a long term condition that causes pain all over the body). Ms C complained that the treatment she received towards the end of her pregnancy led to nerve damage and fibromyalgia.

We took independent advice from a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist (the medical specialty that deals with pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period and the health of the female reproductive systems and the breasts). We found that Ms C was correctly started on medication because of her persistently high blood sugar levels and that this helped with problems associated with gestational diabetes. This was in keeping with national guidelines. We noted that Ms C's high BMI and gestational diabetes were significant risks in pregnancy and wound healing. While Ms C suffered nerve damage and developed fibromyalgia, these were not known to be associated with caesarean section surgery. Therefore, we found that she had been treated reasonably and appropriately. We did not uphold Ms C's complaint.