

Allegations

Allegations are routinely recorded on the GMC's Siebel case management system as part of the investigative process.

They are broadly classified in line with the GMC's core ethical guidance Good Medical Practice and it should be noted that while one or many allegations can be recorded against a case, each allegation has its own outcome recorded. This means that any outcome attributed to a single allegation in this document may actually be from a decision or determination, all of which have the same outcome.

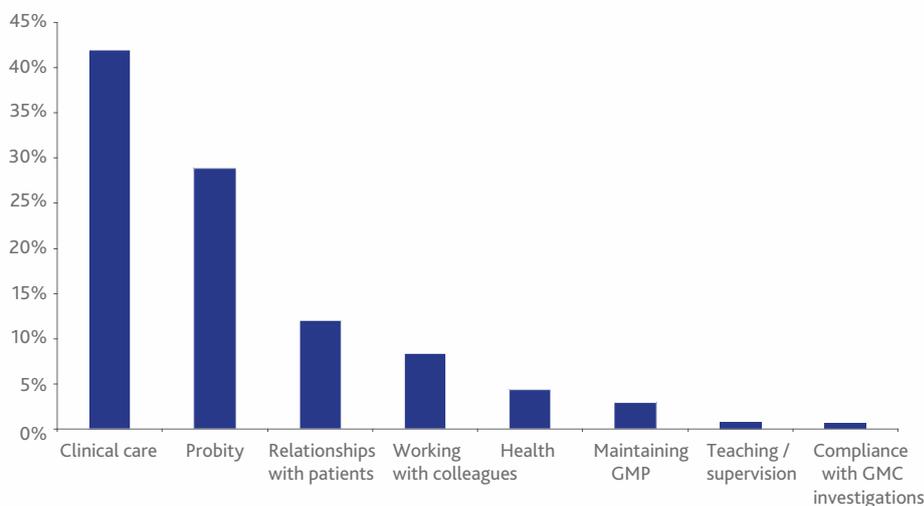
The classification of allegations is three tiered with eight categories which are each subdivided by type and subsequently by subtype. Allegations are recorded and classified before a substantive decision is made according to what has been alleged and therefore reflect concerns rather than proven facts. In particular, the subtype classification of substandard treatment reflects a broad spectrum of concerns regarding treatment and as a result, is the most common allegation for more than one outcome.

This analysis is based on any allegation recorded in the GMC's Siebel case management system associated with a completed decision or Fitness to Practise Panel hearing between 1 January and 31 December 2010.

For Stream 1 investigations, where the information suggests that a doctor's fitness to practise may be impaired, these are completed decisions made by the GMC's case examiners. For Stream 2 investigations, where the information in itself will not call into question a doctor's fitness to practise, these are completed decisions made by assistant registrars.

Stream 1 investigations

Chart 1: Stream 1 allegations categories 2010



Allegations regarding clinical care accounted for 42% of all of the allegations recorded against Stream 1 cases where a substantive decision was made in 2010.

Table 1: Top five allegations resulting in a referral to a hearing

	Number of allegations
Substandard treatment	70
Incomplete medical records	45
False/misleading reporting	44
Indecent behaviour	43
Financial deception	38

The most common allegation referred to a Fitness to Practise Panel hearing in 2010 was in relation to substandard treatment.

Table 2: Top five allegations resulting in a warning being issued

	Number of allegations
Driving under the influence of alcohol	25
Substandard treatment	14
Assault (common)	12
Failure to advise regarding a conviction	11
Minor motoring offences	11

The most common allegation resulting in a warning in 2010 was in relation to driving under the influence of alcohol.

Table 3: Top five allegations resulting in undertakings

	Number of allegations
Substandard treatment	35
F30-39 affective disorders ¹	27
F10 substance – alcohol	22
Irresponsible prescribing	11
Inadequate clinical skills	10
Driving under the influence of alcohol	10

The most common allegation resulting in undertakings in 2010 was in relation to substandard treatment.

Table 4: Top five allegations resulting in advice being given

	Number of allegations
Incomplete medical records	53
Substandard treatment	51
Minor motoring offences	40
Inappropriate prescribing	34
Suitable action not taken	24
Rudeness to patient	24
Inadequate assessment	24

The most common allegation resulting in advice being given in 2010 was in relation to incomplete medical records.

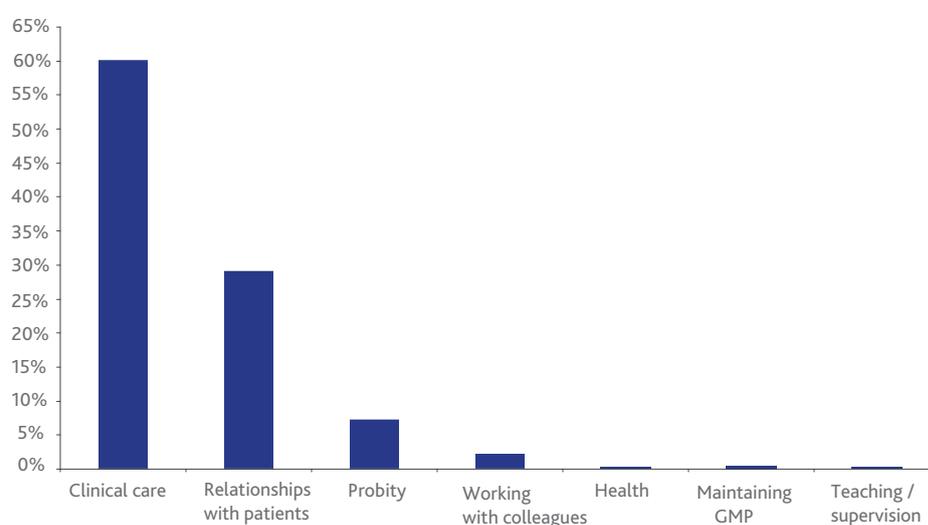
¹ For further information regarding the WHO's international classification of diseases go to: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>

Table 5: Top five allegations resulting in no further action being taken following a Stream 1 investigation

	Number of allegations
Substandard treatment	206
Inadequate assessment	68
Suitable action not taken	56
Inappropriate prescribing	53
Inadequate follow-up	52

The most common allegation resulting in no further action in Stream 1 investigations in 2010 was in relation to substandard treatment.

Stream 2 investigations

Chart 2: Stream 2 allegation categories 2010

Allegations regarding clinical care accounted for 60% of all of the allegations recorded against Stream 2 cases where a substantive decision was made in 2010.

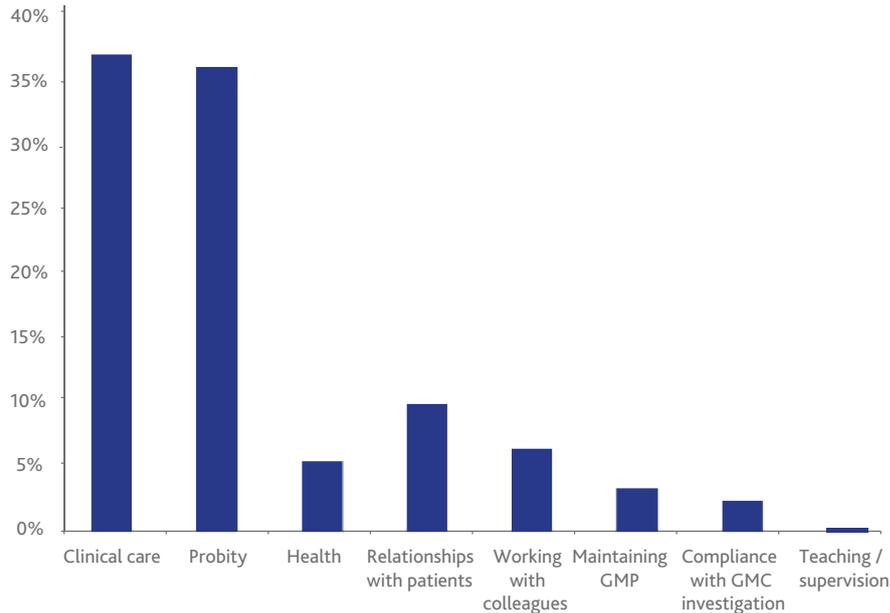
Table 6: Top five allegations resulting in no further action being taken following a Stream 2 investigation

	Number of allegations
Suitable action not taken	206
Rudeness to patient	196
Substandard treatment	150
Failure to diagnose	126
Lack of further investigation	123

The most common allegation resulting in no further action in Stream 2 investigations in 2010 was in relation to suitable action not being taken.

Fitness to Practise Panel hearings

Chart 3: Fitness to Practise Panel hearing allegation categories 2010



Allegations relating to clinical care accounted for 37% of those before a Fitness to Practise Panel hearing in 2010, followed by probity (36%).

A further 14 doctors with proven allegations were erased at FtP Panel Review² Hearings; this consists of nine clinical care, three probity and two doctors had one each of maintaining good medical practice and relationships with patients.

Table 7: Top five allegations resulting in erasure

	Number of allegations
Incomplete medical records	32
Failure to provide appropriate information	15
Substandard treatment	15
Inappropriate prescribing	15
Financial deception	14

The most common allegation resulting in erasure from the register by a Fitness to Practise Panel in 2010 related to incomplete medical records.

² An FtP Panel Review hearing convenes to review a doctor's compliance with restrictions placed on their registration and has the power to erase.

Table 8: Top five allegations resulting in suspension

	Number of allegations
False/misleading reporting	16
F30-39 affective disorders ³	11
Substandard treatment	11
Fraud	10
Incomplete medical records	9

The most common allegation resulting in suspension from the register by a Fitness to Practise Panel in 2010 related to false/misleading reporting.

Table 9: Top five allegations resulting in conditions

	Number of allegations
Substandard treatment	17
Incomplete medical records	10
F30-39 affective disorders ³	7
Inadequate clinical skills	6
False/misleading reporting	5

The most common allegation resulting in conditions being placed on a doctor's registration by a Fitness to Practise Panel in 2010 related to substandard treatment.

Table 10: Top five allegations resulting in a warning

	Number of allegations
Suitable action not taken	9
Driving without tax/insurance/licence	5
Inaccurate medical records	4
Irresponsible prescribing	4
Inadequate assessment	3
Incomplete medical records	3
False claims to experience	3

The most common allegation resulting in a warning being issued by a Fitness to Practise Panel in 2010 related to suitable action not taken.

Data collection

The data used in this analysis was taken from the GMC's Siebel case management system at 08:00 on 12 January 2011 and was correct at that time.

³ For further information regarding the WHO's international classification of diseases go to: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>