

Information about the case of Dr Zaw

The case of Dr Zaw was first considered by a Medical Practitioners Tribunal (MPT) in 2017. This followed a series of concerns that had been raised about his performance, communication and leadership. Following an investigation, the GMC then referred him to the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service in relation to his treatment of four patients. Dr Zaw was found impaired and was suspended for 12 months. He was later erased from the register.

The MPT decision has been misrepresented as setting a precedent or policy position and has caused some concern about the accountability of doctors in terms of the supervision of PAs. It's important to note that this case is one determination of the MPT and sets no legally binding precedent on future tribunals.

The primary failure was Dr Zaw's responsibility to urgently and personally review one patient (patient C) upon admission because of how they presented, which he did not do. The MPT also found that Dr Zaw failed to adequately supervise the PA's review of that patient.

Other serious allegations were also found proven which were of an entirely separate nature. The case also involved significant concerns and allegations about the doctor's conduct in relation to a number of patients over a period of time across two hospital sites. This led to a local investigation of the doctor and, separately, a critical incident report, before the doctor was referred to the GMC.

These other allegations included:

- failing to alert an appropriate consultant of the presence of patient B at St Georges and to make an adequate record.
- failing to review patient C presenting with meningitis, to immediately prescribe IV antibiotics, to organise CT scan and to monitor the patient.
- failing to appreciate the significance of progression of hypoxia in patient D, to arrange appropriate investigations and to escalate for senior review.

Dr Zaw failed to engage or appear at the hearing that took place in 2017 where he was suspended as a result of these significant concerns about his conduct. His failure to attend any review hearings or provide any evidence of insight or remediation ultimately led to his erasure in 2019.