

Ms B had concerns that her father, Mr B, did not receive treatment in line with his treatment plan.

Mr B was under the care of the oncologists from the Kent Oncology Centre, where he was seen at Kent & Canterbury Hospital, for treatment of prostate cancer. Part of his treatment plan was for Mr B to receive hormone replacement therapy (HRT) at three month intervals. Between July 2013 and March 2014, Mr B did not receive the HRT. Ms B was seeking an explanation as to why, especially as her father's cancer had since spread rapidly. Ms B wanted to know if the prognosis would have been different if he had received the HRT as planned.

Our findings

The complaint was investigated by a Consultant Oncologist and reviewed by the Clinical Director for Cancer and Haematology. As a result of the investigation, the complaint was not upheld.

The plan from the oncology service was for the HRT to be provided by Mr B's GP. This was supported by a review of the clinical correspondence between the oncology department and the GP.

Explanation was provided that when a patient has been receiving HRT for prolonged periods of time, as in Mr B's case, the effects last from up to a year. In view of this, it was unlikely that the absence of HRT over this period would have made a significant difference to the progress of the disease or the prognosis.