

Commonly occurring allegations in 2023

The most commonly occurring allegations in 2023 were:

1. Concern about treatment techniques/approach/dissatisfied with treatment —¹
2. Rough or aggressive treatment causing injury or pain to the patient —
3. Inappropriate/contraindicated/excessive treatment/lack of clinical justification —
4. Communication - rudeness to patient/lack of respect or sympathy/treat patient fairly —
5. a. Consent - failure to obtain informed consent ↑²
b³. Sexual boundaries - inappropriate contact with patient's body/intimate areas ↑
6. Misdiagnosis/No diagnosis —
7. Communication - inappropriate comments/language ↓⁴
8. Inadequate assessment/case history*⁵

It is of note that whilst the most common occurring allegation may relate to substandard treatment, if appropriate or clear communication between chiropractor and patient had taken place, this may have avoided this type of allegation being referred to the GCC.

Allegations relating to clinical care (1-3) and communication (4) continue to be the most commonly occurring in 2023. 1-4 above remain in the top four commonly occurring allegations as 2022.

There are more allegations about consent and sexual boundaries than last year. Although *Consent* (5a) and *Sexual boundaries* (5b) appears in the list of commonly occurring allegations in 2022, they have moved up in the list in 2023.

Misdiagnosis (6) remains at the same position as 2022. There are slightly lower number of allegations relating to *inappropriate comments / language* (7) than 2022.

Inadequate assessment / case history (8) did not appear in the list of commonly occurring allegations in 2022 and is therefore new in the list for 2023.

¹ — Indicates that allegation is at same position in list of common allegations compared to previous year

² ↑ Indicates that allegation has moved up in list of common allegations compared to previous year

³ 5a and 5b are of equal number of allegations

⁴ ↓ Indicates that allegation is lower in list of common allegations compared to previous year

⁵ * Indicates that allegation is new addition to list of common allegations compared to previous year

