

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Agreed Removal Decision

Registrar – 12th December 2024

Registrant: Sara Burton

PIN: 21K21150

[PUBLISHED REASONS]

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR'S DECISION

I agree to the application for removal from the NMC register

Details of the concerns

The NMC regulatory concerns under investigation relate to poor medications practice

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR'S REASONS

I considered all the relevant documents that were provided to me when assessing this Agreed Removal Application

Background

The NMC received a referral on 26 June 2023 about Ms Sara Burton's poor medication practice, due to making a number of medication errors.

An Agreed Removal Application dated 22nd October 2024 was received from Ms Burton seeking to be removed from the NMC Register

Ms Burton made medication errors at two different care home settings. Ms Burton and her employer have submitted that there were some contextual factors in relation to the errors at the first care home.

Public interest considerations

I've considered our guidance on removal by agreement, the detail of the concerns that have been raised, what our guidance says about seriousness and sanctions and the response from the maker of the allegation.

I've also considered Ms Burton's reasons for applying for removal, what she's said about her future intentions and her response to the concerns that have been raised about her fitness to practise.

I have carefully considered what our guidance says about seriousness and sanctions. The concerns in this case relates to poor medication practice which is very serious and raises significant concerns about Ms Burton's ability to practise safely.

There is no evidence to suggest that Ms Burton deliberately intended to cause harm to the patients in her care, or that there is a deep-seated attitudinal problem that would suggest a striking off order is appropriate.

Our guidance says that in most cases we're likely to agree to removal from the register, provided we're satisfied that the regulatory concerns raised aren't so serious that they're fundamentally incompatible with being a registered professional (the kinds of concerns that are likely to result in the Fitness to Practise Committee making a striking-off order).

Ms Burton accepted the concerns, and she took some immediate steps to remediate and strengthen her practice. I considered that no harm came to the residents of the home as result of her medication errors.

Agreed removal would mean that Ms Burton would be immediately removed from the register and would not be able to work as a nurse. I'm satisfied that this would be an effective and proportionate way to conclude this case, whilst still ensuring the public are protected from any risk of harm. Public confidence in the profession would also be maintained by the publication of this decision.

We contacted the person that raised the concerns about Ms Burton for their comments on the application for agreed removal who responded that they do not object to the application.

Assistant Registrar's decision

I've decided to agree to the application for removal from the NMC register.

Anthony Robinson

Assistant Registrar