

## Stage one: Determine if the concern is serious enough to affect fitness to practise

Reference: SCR-1a Last Updated: 31/08/2018

We first consider if the concern is serious enough to raise doubts on whether the nurse or midwife should be allowed to continue to practise as a registered professional, without us putting a restriction on how they work.

We use this to decide whether we need to investigate further.

For example, we may not need to take regulatory action for a clinical mistake, even where there has been serious harm to a patient or service-user, if there is no longer a risk to patient safety and the nurse or midwife has been open about what went wrong and can demonstrate that they have learned from it.

Our [guidance on seriousness](#) explains how decision makers at our screening stage might consider the seriousness of different kinds of concerns.

There's further guidance about the different kinds of fitness to practise concern in our sections on [misconduct](#), [lack of competence](#), [criminal offending](#), [health](#), [not having the necessary knowledge of English](#), or [decisions by other health or social care organisations](#).