

NMC Press Release

A 51 year-old children's nurse from Benfleet in Essex has been given a five-year caution following a hearing in London yesterday (Wednesday June 30).

The Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) Professional Conduct Committee found Elaine Susan Chase guilty of three charges of misconduct in relation to her work at South Essex Mental Health & Community Care Services between 1995 and 2000.

The Committee heard that between 1995 and 1999 Chase failed to act in a collaborative manner with colleagues and, in March 1998, administered morphine to a cancer patient without first seeking medical advice. The committee also heard that in October 2000 Chase had in her possession medication that that was not her property.

The NMC's Director of Fitness to Practise, Liz McAnulty said: "The charges facing Ms Chase were of a serious nature. However, the committee recognised that these events took place at a time when protocols were not in place to ensure good practice. In addition, mitigation from her current employers convinced us that she has learnt from her mistakes and is now a skilled and competent practitioner. On that basis Ms Chase has been given a caution."

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Notes for editors: The NMC is the UK regulator for nurses, midwives and health visitors. There are around 650,000 health professionals on the register.