Stage 1
Are the facts proved?
The GDC must prove the alleged facts (what is said to have happened)

The committee needs to decide whether the alleged facts have been found proved

If the facts are found not proved
The committee takes no further action and the case concludes

If some or all of the facts are found proved
The committee moves on to Stage 2

Stage 2
Is the registrant’s fitness to practise impaired?
Fitness to practise can be impaired for several reasons including misconduct, lack of competence, ill health or a conviction for a criminal offence

The committee needs to decide whether the registrant’s fitness to practise is currently impaired

Not currently impaired
The committee takes no further action and the case concludes

Is currently impaired
The committee considers what sanction, if any, should be imposed on the registrant’s registration

Stage 2 (continued)
What sanction is appropriate & proportionate?
If a committee decides that a registrant’s fitness to practise is currently impaired, it can decide what sanction to impose, if any. Sanctions are intended to protect patients and maintain public confidence in the profession. They are not to punish the registrant

The committee needs to decide whether to impose a sanction, balancing the need to protect patients and maintain public confidence in the profession, with the registrant’s own interests

Outcomes available
- No sanction
- Reprimand (warning)
- Conditions *
- Suspension *
- Erasure

The committee may also consider to impose an immediate order, for example, immediate conditions or suspension, which means the sanction imposed will take effect straight away

* The committee may direct a review hearing should take place before the order runs out