‘Dismissed, overlooked and ignored for decades’

Inquiry’s damning verdict on the health system’s handling of patients who were harmed in series of unsafe treatment scandals

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Patients face harm from unsafe medicines and medical devices because the “disjointed, siloed, unresponsive and defensive” healthcare system “cannot be relied on” to identify safety risks, a landmark inquiry has warned. In a devastating critique of the medical profession, the NHS, regulators, and private companies, an inquiry led by Baroness Julia Cumberlege concluded hundreds of women and children suffered life-changing avoidable harm from use of vaginal mesh, epilepsy treatment sodium valproate and hormone pregnancy test Primodos, with their cases “dismissed, overlooked and ignored”, in some cases for decades.