

White, John

From: Charles Farthing [Code A]
Sent: 26 June 2009 09:50
To: [Code A]
Cc: White, John; AvMA, Peter Walsh
Subject: Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Nursing & Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London
W1B 1PZ

Dear Sir/Madam,

GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GWMH)

My step-father, Arthur Dennis Brian CUNNINGHAM, is one of 12 patients whose untimely deaths are currently under investigation by the General Medical Council due to an excess of opiate drugs. This was confirmed by a recent coroner's inquest at Portsmouth.

After completing my own evidence last week, I have been permitted to observe subsequent GMC proceedings involving the doctor responsible (Jane Barton), which involved the cross-examination of various nurses concerned with my step-father's care. This included the evidence of Nurses BARRETT and [Code A] after which I am in a state utter disbelief that more was not done by the authorities to scrutinise and rectify the problems of the so-called caring staff at the GWMH. The questioning of BARRETT was such that she had to be stopped short by the Panel's legal representative from criminalising herself, which would surely have followed if she had been allowed to go on. In the event, she was advised that she could refuse to answer such questions, which is what she went on to do.

The more I hear about the events that went on at the GWMH, the more it would appear there was a one-fit terminal solution for whoever was unfortunate enough to enter Dryad Ward for whatever reason and, as I now know from the evidence, Dryad Ward was NOT for rehabilitation even though the families were led to believe it was.

It is surely time for the Nursing & Midwifery Council to come out of the shadows and stand up for what is right in this world as, despite all the evidence over the years including formal complaints by nurses in the early 1990s about the misuse of syringe-drivers causing premature death and a damning report by the Council for Health Improvement, the NMC seems to have sat on its hands in a state of blind ignorance hoping the problem would go away.

Would you please advise what action the NMC proposes to take, and when.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Charles Stewart-Farthing

Copied to:
AvMA (Peter Walsh)
Blake Laphorne (John White)

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26/06/2009