

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: WALKER, FIONA LORRAINE

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: NURSE

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: F WALKER

Date: 23/01/2003

I am the person named above and live at the address shown on the attached form.

I have been a nurse for 35 years.

I began training as a nurse in 1968 and in 1982 I commenced working at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital as a night sister.

I was one of three night sisters and my responsibilities were for the patients and staff whilst on nights, this also included minor injuries and the hospital premises.

In the late 1980's 'syringe drivers' were introduced at the hospital. The driver is a 24 hour 'pump' that introduces medication to control symptoms experienced by the patients. They were mainly used on patients suffering from pain, nausea, vomiting, agitation and where medication could not be delivered orally.

My duties regarding syringe drivers was to ensure that two trained staff applied a syringe driver to the patient. Sometimes circumstances would dictate that there was only one qualified member of staff available to apply a driver. Therefore I would take the place of the second member of staff that was required. The reason that two staff was required was in order to check the prescription and contents. This process/procedure is the same for anytime that a controlled drug is given to a patient.

In 1991 I was aware that some staff at the hospital expressed concerns over the levels of

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2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: WALKER, FIONA LORRAINE

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Diamorphine being prescribed. My belief is that this was resolved internally and that a consultant came over from the Countess Mountbatten Hospice and explained the situation to the nursing staff.

After this I was unaware of any problems concerning syringe drivers or Diamorphine. This was until 1998 when the relatives of a patient named Gladys RICHARDS made a complaint regarding her treatment and her subsequent death.

I was interviewed by the police over this. I explained to them that I had no direct involvement in the treatment of RICHARDS that I could remember. I was asked by the police to explain the use of syringe drivers, which I did as I have described previously. Also I explained that I was unaware of any mistreatment of RICHARDS.

I heard nothing further about this until I read about an enquiry in the papers recently. In respect of syringe drivers I have attended a palliative care course which incorporated their use and have been involved in their use for over ten years. I am happy that when used correctly they are beneficial for the patient. I am unaware of any misuse of the drivers or controlled drugs at the hospital.

In regard to the doctors at the hospital I am satisfied with their treatment of patients.

I am still working at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital as a senior staff nurse.

I would like to add here that in regard to controlled drugs when they are administered to a patient and that two staff are required for this, one must be a registered nurse but the second one could be a support worker who has been trained for the 'checking' role of administering them. More often not it is two registered nurses who administer these drugs.

Signed: F WALKER
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: