

APP-A.14-10.1

0142

Witness Statement: Mrs Jenny Brewer - Staff Nurse Daedalus Ward

The following statement was taken by Code A Investigating Officer on 3rd September 1998.

- Q1. How long have you worked on Daedalus Ward as 'D' grade Staff Nurse?
- A. Since December 1996.
- Q2. Did you have any involvement in the care of the late Mrs Gladys Richards?
- A. Yes on Wednesday 13th August 1998 I was on late shift and after 15.30 hrs - the only trained nurse on duty. I was not the named nurse for Mrs Richards.
- Q3. Where you on duty when Mrs Richards had a fall?
- A. Yes.
- Q4.1 Can you describe what happened and the action you took.
- A. See attached statement.
- Q4.2 Can you explain why you did not fully complete the Accident Form?
- A. As I was busy with Dr Lord - a colleague completed some of the details for me and I signed it - I admit I did not complete all the details and Philip filled in parts that had not been completed.
- Q5. Did you ask the Duty Doctor to visit Mrs Richards?
- A. Dr Barton was on the Ward and was aware; as Mrs Richards did not appear to have suffered any injuries - I did not ask her to examine Mrs Richards. The Duty Doctor was contacted by telephone after 19.45 hrs when I noticed the internal rotation of Mrs Richards Rt hip.
- Q6. How would you describe Mrs Richards mental state while she was on Daedalus Ward?
- A. I am aware she suffered from dementia - but she was not my patient.

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- Q7. Did you speak to Mrs Lack (Mrs Richards daughter) on the day of the fall?
- A. Yes - when she visited tea-time approximately I was completing the medicine round. I did not telephone her immediately after the fall as I felt it better to see her face to face.
- Q8. What did you say to her?
- A. I informed her that her Mother had fallen from the chair earlier, but she did not have any apparent injuries.
- Q9. Were you on duty for the evening drug round?
- A. Yes.
- Q10. Did you ask Mrs Lack if she thought her Mother was in pain?
- A. Yes. Mrs Lack's reply was "not at the moment I am feeding her" - it was at this point I informed her of her Mothers fall. After this Mrs Lack did say her Mother was in pain (see Question 19).
- Q.11 Who put Mrs Richards to bed that evening?
- A. Myself and HCSW put Mrs Richards to bed at 19.45 hrs using hoist. At this time - I noticed the Rt hip to be internally rotated and painful. At 2000 hrs contacted Duty Doctor Dr Brigg and informed him I thought the hip to be dislocated - see statement.
- Q12. Did you have any further involvement with Mrs Richards after the day of the fall?
- A. Yes - only very little - she was not my patient.

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Q13. Were you on duty when Mrs Richards was transferred back from Haslar?

A. No - I was a day off. I next saw Mrs Richards on Tuesday 18th August 1998 - I was on a late duty i.e. 12.15 pm - 9 pm (see attached).

Mrs Lack spoke to me whilst I was in the sluice, she was angry - telling me that her Mother "was walking yesterday at Haslar - she is here today and dying". My response was sympathetic - said I was sorry and maybe the journey from Haslar had upset her.

Q14. Were you aware of the disappearance of Mrs Richards clothing?

A. No.

Q15. Were you aware that the family agreed to do her washing?

A. Not aware - as Mrs Richards was not my patient.

Q16. Were you on duty on 19th August 1998?

A. Yes.

Q17. Did you ask the family to take Mrs Richards clothes away?

A. No.

Q18. Were you aware of the family's concerns regarding the standard of care their Mother received?

A. Yes.

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Q19. Do you have anything else to say?

- A. Yes - concerning Mrs Lacks account of events, page 1 Mrs Lack refers to speaking to trained and untrained staff - there was only 2 trained staff on duty - S.N Joice and myself - I was completing the Consultants Round and I would not have blamed the dementia as a cause for Mrs Richards distress.

I did ask Mrs Lack if she thought her Mother to be in pain, she responded by saying "no - I am feeding her". At this point I did inform Mrs Lack that her Mother had had a fall - I had not previously phoned her as I wanted to see her face to face. After I informed her of her Mother's fall - she sought me out (I was still doing the medicine round) and informed me her Mother was in great pain. I told Mrs Lack I would come back and make an assessment with Mrs Richards on the bed - Mrs Lack asked me not to put her on the bed.

At this point - an emergency occurred with another patient and as the only trained nurse on - I had to attend. I did not want HCSW putting Mrs Richards to bed, so it was not until 19.45 hrs that I was able to put Mrs Richards to bed and that was when I noticed the internal rotation of the Rt leg.