

APP. A, 14-10-3,

0144

Witness Statement of S.N Christine Joice - Staff Nurse Daedalus Ward

The following statement was taken by Code A Investigating Officer on 9th September 1998.

- Q1. Please state your grade/role and length of service on Daedalus Ward.
- A. RGN 'E' - 5 years on Daedalus.
- Q2. Did you have any involvement with Mrs Gladys Richards?
- A. Yes - giving her medication - not involved in any personal care - I work primarily on the Stroke Team - I do not have much involvement in continuing care patients - see statement attached.
- Q3. On Mrs Richards return from Haslar on 17th August 1998 did you admit her?
- A. No - I saw her arrive on stretcher with ambulance crew - I was at Nurses Station.
- Q4. Can you recall which Ambulance Service brought Mrs Richards in and was there a nurse escort?
- A. It was Mainline Ambulance - and there was not a nurse escort.
- Q5. How was Mrs Richards transferred from stretcher to bed?
- A. I do not know - I was not involved - two HCSW assisted.
- Q6. Did you attend Mrs Richards during this time at all?
- A. No - S.N Couchman returned from coffee break and went into Mrs Richards.
- Q7. Did you have any further involvement with Mrs Richards that day?
- A. No.

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Q8. Please describe Mrs Richards condition on the 18th August 1998?

A. I was on late shift - I saw Mrs Lack leave Mrs Richards room crying and walking towards Activities Room - I followed her - she was very angry and upset and implied I was not telling her everything - I tried to reassure her this was not true.

Q9. Did you give Mrs Richards any fluids whilst you were on duty during 18th August or 21st August 1998?

A. No.

Q10. Did the family ask any questions regarding feeding or giving fluids.

A. No.

Q11. Were you aware the family wished to do the laundry for Mrs. Richards?

A. No.

Q12. Do you remember making any comment to daughters regarding the need for clothes "as we get patients up here" when Mrs Richards was obviously so poorly?

A. No - I couldn't imagine any of the staff making any comment about getting patient up when they were so obviously very poorly.

Q13. Do you have anything further to say?

A. No.

Statement: S.N. C Joice - S.N Daedalus Ward

On the 12th August 1998 - late duty - not met Mrs Richards before - but concerned about her because she looked drowsy: she was pale in colour. I checked her drug chart - she had been given Oramorph at 6 am and Haloperidol.

About 5 pm Mrs Lack visited Mrs Richards - she expressed her concerns regarding her Mothers condition/drowsiness. I informed her of the medication she had been given - reassured Mrs Lack I would inform Doctor if she deteriorated. I asked HCSW to put Mrs Richards into bed - a hoist was used - she woke up and began to cry out. Mrs Lack assisted her Mother with her supper (soup). Mrs Richards continued to be very noisy - but I was very reluctant to give any further medication due to Mrs Lacks concerns; eventually she settled and went to sleep - no further problems for the remainder of shift.

On 13th August 1998 - I was on early shift - Night Staff reported Mrs Richards had been noisy all night - I commenced the Drug Round - I attempted to give her the Haloperidol - she screamed and pushed it away - so it was not given. I asked the HCSW to let me know when they had got her up. I would give her medication then - this time she took the medicine. I was the only trained nurse until 12.15 pm - when S.N Jenny Brewer came on duty - I gave her a report on all patients. I then completed admission process on new patient and Jenny commenced medicine round.

I cannot remember who told me that Mrs Richards had slipped out of her chair - or what time. I did not follow up the report of the fall - as I understood S.N Brewer had dealt with her. I now realise I should have checked her.

I do not recall going into Mrs Richards room during the afternoon up to 3.30 pm when I went off duty; I cannot remember if she was making any noise.