

APP. A . 14 . 10 . 5
0146

Witness Statement: Mrs Margaret Couchman - Staff Nurse Daedalus Ward.

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

Q1. Can you confirm you were the named nurse for Mrs Gladys Richards?

A. Yes

Q2. Did you complete the admission documentation on 11th August 1998.

A. No - not on duty - EN Pulford was responsible for completing the admission documentation.

Q3:1 Can you explain why Mental Test Sheet was not completed as Mrs Richards was diagnosed with dementia?

Q3:2 Can you explain why Lifting/Handling Risk Calculator Form was not completed?

A3:1) No

A3:2) No - I did not complete the admission documentation - but agree this should have been completed.

Q4. Were you on duty at the time Mrs Richards was found on the floor?

A. No.

Q5. Were you on duty when Mrs Richards was transferred back from Haslar Hospital?

A. Yes.

Q6. On arrival on the Ward, did Mrs Richards appear to be in any discomfort?

A. I was at coffee break at time of her arrival, but on my return I went into Mrs Richards room and introduced myself - I noticed Mrs Richards was in some distress and not positioned correctly - Mrs Lack offered to help me move her Mother - informing me she was a retired nurse, we straightened her, placed a pillow in between her legs - she immediately appeared more comfortable. I cannot be certain if she had a splint - I think she probably did.

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Q7. When moving Mrs Richards with her daughter - did you notice any swelling around the hip?

A. No - Mrs Richards held her hand on her hip and said "it hurt".

Q8. Was she accompanied by a nurse from Haslar.

A. I cannot answer, I was not on the Ward at the time of Mrs Richards arrival.

Q9. How was Mrs Richards pain controlled?

A. Oramorph 10 mgs 4 hourly - given orally.

Q10. Was her daughter involved in making this decision?

A. After Mrs Richards was settled, the daughter tried to feed her Mother (HCSW took meal away to "mince") as Mrs Richards could not cope with "lumps". Mrs Lack felt her Mother was still in pain and she told me that the Surgeon at Haslar had said if the hip dislocated again - it was to be replaced. Pain controlled discussed with Mrs Lack - who was reluctant for her Mother to be given medication, but did eventually agree. Dr Barton contacted and advice sought - X-Ray form written and signed by me i.e. pp. By Dr Barton, but this was not acceptable to X-Ray Dept. - who insisted form must be signed by Doctor new form was faxed to Surgery and signed by Duty Doctor. Mrs Richards was X-Rayed at 15.45 hours.

Q11. Why would her clothing be sent for marking at the Hospital when her family had agreed to do her washing?

A. Not necessary, but I am aware Gosport War Memorial Hospital had run out of labels i.e. "Daedalus Ward", therefore it was sent to St. Mary's to be labelled.

Q12. Were you aware of the family's concerns regarding the standard of care their Mother was receiving?

A. Yes - the family told me in no uncertain terms.

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Q13. It there anything else you would like to say?

A. After the syringe driver was commenced and Mrs Richards appeared more peaceful - the family's attitude appeared to change towards the staff.