

Additional Notes

Complaint Questions & Answers, Portsmouth Health Authority

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walking with a zimmer was impossible. Mrs LACK informed me on the telephone she had queried such strong medication which was not given during my mothers stay in Haslar. No pain killer medication or tranquillisers were being administered when she was referred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital from Haslar.

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As far as I am aware 'full details' were not given to Mrs LACK. I am of the opinion Mrs LACK would have queried the non-examination by Dr BARTON.

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When the qualified nurse arrived we pulled back the sheet. The nurse & Mrs LACK moved my mother. I asked the nurse how had my mother been supervised from the stretcher to the bed. It looked as if she had been rolled off the stretcher onto the bed. Had the bed been moved from the wall to accommodate the procedure with a 'nurse' each side? She said she did not know. By this time she would certainly have known that a stretcher had not been used. She certainly had not examined my mother's position before our request. If she had done so she did not do anything about it.

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The cause of pain cannot be confirmed. We knew she subsequently had a haematoma at site. Her leg was in a canvas splint. After my mother was x-rayed I asked Philip could her pain have been caused by the stretcher, i.e. the poles inserted down the side of the canvas - when they were inserted or removed. He (quite definitely) stated "I should think that was unlikely". At the time he knew the result of the x-ray (a massive haematoma) but he only said to me "You will be relieved to know she has not dislocated her hip again - perhaps she has suffered a bit of bruising". He also knew that a canvas had not been used. He quite deliberately did not give me a straight answer. I only knew of the massive haematoma the next morning. Nor did Dr BARTON mention it when she told Mrs LACK & myself that a decision would be made next morning. Is this another situation when it was

thought more convenient for Mrs RICHARDS to possibly die in the night at Gosport rather than transfer her to Haslar again ??? surely Haslar shift would have asked questions. Haslar had already agreed with my sister that my mother could be transferred to them again.

8d

Dr BARTON stated that she thought it would be too much for my mother to return to Haslar that evening but Mrs LACK & myself should return to G.W.M. H. Next morning when the situation would be discussed. This we did but we did not see Dr BARTON on arrival - we saw Philip who informed us nothing could be done for her massive haematoma even a pain free death with the aid of a diamorphine syringe. No mention was made of surgery. Had the question of general anaesthetic been mentioned I would have pointed out that the hip replacement and a later relocation had been carried out without general anaesthetic. I would have asked if similar procedure could have been carried out for the 'surgical procedure'.

Mrs LACK, Mrs Code A (?) niece & her baby & myself were all present in my mother's room after the setting up of the syringe by Philip when Dr BARTON came to the doorway. She said "I understand you are aware of the situation, the syringe driver has been explained" we replied "Yes, Philip has told us". Dr BARTON then said "You realise the next step will be a chest infection", Mrs LACK & myself confirmed - although at the time I thought she was referring to 'dead mans rattle'. She made a few comments about the baby. We did not see Dr BARTON again.

After my mothers death & Mrs LACK's notes had been sent for complaints procedure to begin I had telephoned Mrs HUMPHREYS (at St James) and asked for the additional question to be added, i.e. why wasn't a drip put up? I was informed on the telephone that it would have been explained to me by Dr BARTON, I confirmed that it had not. I believe there is some query now as to whether the G.W.M.H. was qualified to do so.

At the time we were informed by Philip that nothing could be done. I was continuously under the impression that death would be quite soon. Had I known that my mothers heart was strong enough to endure constant diamorphine & dehydration for 5 days I would have not accepted that she was anywhere near the terminal stages of dying. Obviously she wasn't. Anyone dehydrated for 5 days on a diet of diamorphine only would not have survived very long.