

REFERENCE: GLADYS RICHARDS – PEARL NECKLACE.

As requested I have investigated the loss of Gladys Richards's pearl necklace as reported by Mrs Lack.

I have read through all of Mrs Richards nursing notes and there is no reference to the loss of the necklace. (From her admission to the date she went to Haslar on 29 July 1998.) I have checked through the message books dating back to 9 April 1997; again no reference to the necklace.

On talking to members of staff about the reported loss Marian Jones and Elaine Nash could remember Lesley saying that the necklace was missing. They think this was about 2 - 2.5 years ago. A search was carried out and several 'pearl' necklaces were found (? other residents and those which, presumably were in the 'lost property' box). Those necklaces were shown to Lesley who stated that none belonged to her mother. It was also said by Marian and Elaine that 2 residents often picked up items from tables etc and hid them. Furthermore Gladys was always taking things off her person and leaving them anywhere.

It appears the police were not called at that time. However, following an incident involving missing money, the police were called. Whether the missing necklace was raised with the police I cannot establish. It is possible the time of the necklace incident and missing money might have been too far apart to associate the two together.

Michaela James (Cleaning staff) told me that she found a pearl necklace and a ring in Gladys' room (214 at that time). The ring was found on a tray on top of the glass cabinet and the necklace was found under the bed. Michaela was aware that the ring was missing by virtue Lesley had put a notice on the resident board in the dining room asking if any one had found Gladys' ring. She also drew a picture of the ring. Michaela told Lesley that she had found both the necklace and the ring the following day. She also told the nurse on duty that the ring and the necklace had been found and were on the tray in the room. Approximately 2 days later Lesley came and thanked Michaela. The approximate date was early May 98. Michaela also told me that there had been numerous occasions where Lesley had asked if various 'lost' items had been found and presumably they had or I am sure she would have taken action.

Summary.

I cannot find any documentation about the loss of the necklace. The police do not have appeared to have been contacted regarding the loss. I cannot establish the outcome as to Mrs lack's response at that time. It would appear to me that she did not take any further action at that time.

John Perkins
Nurse Manager

(16 September 1998)