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Dear Professor Haslam

CHI Investigation - Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Following Julie Miller's very helpful correspondence between yourself and Dr Maureen Baker some weeks ago, I am sure you are aware of the background to CHI's recent investigation at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. In summary, the investigation was triggered by a police investigation into the deaths of older people, who had been cared for by a local GP working in a community hospital as a clinical assistant. The investigation also looked at the care older people had received on a GP ward in the same hospital.

Whilst I appreciate the Royal College's view that a clinical assistant would not generally be regarded as operating as a GP when working under contract to an NHS trust, I would like to provide you with an early briefing of the issues which relate to primary care in advance of publication and any media interest.

In summary, CHI has concluded that;

- There were insufficient local prescribing guidelines
- There was a lack of supervision and appraisal of GPs working in trusts as clinical assistants
- A lack of routine, rigorous review of pharmacy data
- A lack of thorough, multi-disciplinary patient assessments on admission to determine individual care needs

CHI is therefore making recommendations to the local PCT around;

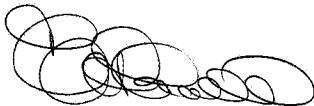
- The appraisal and supervision of GPs working as clinical assistants
- Levels of out of hours cover provided by a local practice and deputising service

- The need for a review of the admission criteria for the GP ward

Whilst these recommendations are specific to the two local PCTs delivering the service, CHI is keen to stress the relevance of these recommendations to all emerging PCTs.

The CHI report will be published at www.chi.nhs.uk at 10.00am on Wednesday 3 July, when a copy will be sent to you. I hope this information has given you sufficient information in advance of the reports publication. If either yourself or your colleagues would like to arrange a meeting with Julie Miller, Investigations Manager and myself post publication to discuss the report in more detail, I should be most happy to do so.

Yours sincerely



Liz Fradd
Director of Nursing/Lead Director for Clinical Governance
Reviews

