



**PORTSMOUTH HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST and  
ISLE OF WIGHT, PORTSMOUTH AND  
SOUTH EAST HAMPSHIRE  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**JOINT PRESS STATEMENT –  
GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Hampshire Police do not intend to conduct any further investigations concerning deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

This decision follows an investigation into the care of one patient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and a further review of the notes of four other patients after concerns were raised by their families about the standard of care received.

However, the Police enquiries have raised some serious concerns relating to prescribing policies at the hospital during the time the patients were treated. We need now to consider carefully what, if any, further action may be required as a consequence.

The death that gave rise to the initial investigation was four years ago. Since then a great deal has changed and improvements have been made to the prescribing, pain management and record keeping policies at the hospital. There have also been improvements medical cover to ensure patients receive the very best care possible.

The Commission for Health Improvement is carrying out an investigation at the hospital and we await their report.

We have co-operated fully with the Police and are grateful for the careful and thorough manner in which they have looked into this matter. We recognise that this must have been a very difficult time for the families involved; it has certainly been extremely stressful for members of staff working at Gosport.

We are fortunate to have highly dedicated and skilled staff working at the Hospital. It is a well loved local hospital, with feedback from patients being generally positive.

**Date to be inserted**

ends

**NOTE:**

**This press statement to be issued if we need to respond early.**



**Additional section to be incorporated in previous statement, following completion of staff briefings.**

We are aware that the Police have referred the papers produced by their enquiry to the General Medical Council and the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting as well as to Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust and the Health Authority.

The Police enquiries related to clinical practice at the hospital four years ago, since that time significant improvements have been made to prescribing policies and standards.

However, despite this, we wish to reassure ourselves that the standards we insist upon are being adhered to and the following action is being taken:

- one doctor has agreed to cease involvement at the hospital immediately and to restrict prescribing responsibilities within general practice until such prescribing procedures can be assessed and validated;
- a review of medical and nursing notes by two clinical auditors, independent of the Hospital, using Department of Health national standards and the Portsmouth HealthCare Trust's policies for prescribing pain management as benchmarks; and
- an audit of medical notes by a senior pharmacist to ensure they meet the requirements of current policies. This will commence next week and is expected to be completed by early March.

The local community has a right to receive the very best care possible and we will continue to insist that staff work to agreed standards and practices.

If people have concerns about the care of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, please contact either:

**Fiona Cameron** on 01329 822268 or **Jan Peach**, Service Manager at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 023 9252 4611.

**Media enquiries:** David Barker, Communications Manager, Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust, 023 9282 2444; and Sue Galley, Communications Manager, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority, 023 9283 5156.