

Code A

From: McKeown, Mel
Sent: 20 April 2009 15:45
To: **Code A**
Subject: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests
Importance: High
Attachments: Final statement - 20 April 09.doc

Dear all,

Many of you will be aware of the inquests into ten deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The jury retired on Thursday morning to consider the evidence that was presented during inquests.

The jury has now reached decisions on all ten cases, as follows:

Statement in relation to Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquest Verdicts

Director of Performance and Standards for NHS Hampshire, Richard Samuel, said;

"We have fully supported the Coroner's inquests as a valuable opportunity to review the events of the late 1990s and we sympathise with the families for the uncertainty they have felt around the circumstances of their relatives' death.

"It is important for everyone involved in the care of these patients that five verdicts indicate that the medication used to treat and relieve their symptoms did not contribute to their deaths.

In two verdicts, whilst contributing to death, medication was appropriately given.

It is a matter of regret to the NHS that three verdicts indicate that in the mid/late 1990s the medication administered to these patients has been found to have contributed to their deaths. However, in those cases it was found to have been given for therapeutic purposes.

"NHS Hampshire will now be contacting these families but I would also like to take this opportunity to apologise to the families concerned on behalf of the NHS for any treatment or care which has been found to have contributed to the deaths of their loved ones.

"Since the late 1990s the systems and policies in place at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have undergone a complete overhaul. I can assure the families and local people that all the issues highlighted by these inquests have been addressed and the care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital today is of the highest standard."

- Ends -

For further information contact: **Code A**

The News is running the story as follows: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/newshome/BREAKING-NEWS-Drugs-contributed-to.5186811.jp>

21/04/2009

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