

Fareham and Gosport

Primary Care Trust

Unit 180, Fareham Reach
166 Fareham Road
Gosport
PO13 OFH

Tel: Code A
Fax:

29 October 2002

Dear Mrs Ripley

I am writing further to my letter of the 12 October 2002.

I am now able to respond to your concerns regarding your husband's in-patient stay at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in April 2000.

Mr Ripley's stay in hospital was clearly very upsetting for you and continues to cause you distress. I am sorry you are still concerned with the care he received.

Your letter raised very specific questions particularly in relation to your husband's pain control and the medication he was given. I will respond to each of these in order.

Medication to alleviate pain

Mr Ripley was admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital from the Accident and Emergency Department at Haslar Hospital on the evening of 4 April 2002

On 4th April Mr Ripley was given 10mg MST (Morphine) at 9.35pm almost immediately following admission. Mr Ripley care plan indicated that Mr Ripley's joints were painful.

On 5th April he was given Co-codamol at 05.15 hours and a further dose of MST 10 mgs at 08.10. A further dose of Co-codamol was administered at 1.30pm and 11.50pm on the 5th April.

On the 6th April Mr Ripley was given Co-codamol as above but this was changed to ~~par~~ ^{as} on the 7th ~~it~~ ^{was} apparent the dose was insufficient to control your husband's pain.

MST was also discontinued on the 7th April

Diclofenac supps were prescribed as well the Co-codamol. Assessment of pain is always difficult and communication between the patient and nurses is crucial to ensure adequate control. In an attempt to improve pain management it was recorded on the care plan that your husband's joints were painful and he was given muscle relaxant drugs which would also assist in his pain management.

It is clear there was a breakdown in communication between the nursing staff and yourself. We apologise for this.

The prescriber for as

described

find

? when

*as required
caption
prescription*

Smg Codeine / Paracetamol.

Mild analgesic.

Events of 9th April 2000

It is clearly documented that Mr Ripley's condition deteriorated on Sunday 9th April and Dr Williams saw him at 3.00pm. Dr Williams felt at this time that your husband had suffered a stroke.

You are correct that Haslar initially suggested that an overdose of MST may have caused the problem and he may have become dehydrated. This was clearly ruled out because the last dose of MST had been given on 5th April at 8.10am, four days prior to his deterioration.

I am sorry you were unhappy for him to be transferred back to Gosport War Memorial Hospital, preferring him to go home. This must have been a very difficult time for you and we are sorry you felt Mr Ripley should not be transferred back to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The events that happened two years ago clearly remain a concern for you and your husband.

I hope this letter helps reassure you in relation to the giving of morphine to your husband as it is felt not to have contributed to Mr Ripley's clinical derioration.

I am sorry you feel there has been a lack of follow-up since receiving the CHI report in June. *The action plan related to the recommendations will be available within the next few weeks.*
~~As you probably aware an Independent Audit is taking place and the results will be freely available.~~

Yours sincerely

*on the
Commissioner for
Health Improvement
web site*

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29 October 2002

Dear Mrs Ripley

Further to my letter of 12th October 2002 I am now able to respond to your concerns regarding your husband's in-patient stay at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in April 2000.

I am sorry you felt there was lack of care shown to your husband at a clearly distressing time for you both.

Your letter raised a number of specific points and I will respond to each of these.

Medication to alleviate pain

On 4th April Mr Ripley was given 10mg MST (Morphine) at 9.35pm almost immediately following admission.

On 5th April he was given Co-codamol at 05.15 hours and MST 10 mgs at 08.10. A further dose of Co-codamol was administered at 1.30pm and 11.50pm.

On the 7th April it was apparent to the staff that the dose was insufficient to control Mr Ripley's pain.

Diclofenac supps were prescribed as well the Co-codamol. In an attempt to improve pain management it was recorded on the care plan that your husband's joints were painful and he was given muscle relaxant drugs which would also assist in his pain management.

It is clear there was a breakdown in communication between the nursing staff and yourself. We apologise for this.

Events of 9th April 2000

It is clearly documented that Mr Ripley's condition deteriorated on Sunday 9th April and Dr Williams saw him at 3.00pm. Dr Williams felt at this time that your husband had suffered a stroke.

You are correct that Haslar initially suggested that an overdose of MST may have caused the problem and he may have become dehydrated. This was clearly ruled out because the last dose of MST had been given on 5th April at 8.10am, four days prior to his deterioration.

I am sorry you were unhappy for him to be transferred back to Gosport War Memorial Hospital, preferring him to go home.

This must have been a very difficult time for you.

It has clearly been and remains a concern for you. ~~always~~ *clearly remain*

The events that happened June also ~~clearly remain~~ *clearly remain*

I hope this letter helps reassure you in relation to the giving of morphine to your husband as it is felt not to have contributed to Mr Ripley's clinical ~~****~~ *condition*

I am sorry you feel there has been a lack of follow-up since receiving the CHI report in June.

CHI produced an action plan which
~~the trust has implemented~~ *is implemented*

As you are probably aware an Independent Audit is taking place and the results will be freely available. *in the public domain.*

Yours sincerely

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Have we?

*for Alan Pickering
GOSPT*