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Date:	18/10/01	Pages:	4
Subject:	Press release and TOR		

Dear Mr Millett

Please find attached the final version, which Matt Tee (Director of Communications) is intending to release on Monday 22 October. Matt will be available between 4pm and 5pm today if you need to speak to him about this. His number is

I have also attached the terms of reference.

Regards

Deborah Mead



News Release

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22 October 2001

CHI INVESTIGATION AT GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) has launched an investigation at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, following reported concerns about the quality of care for older people provided by the hospital and the culture in which it is delivered.

The investigation follows concerns expressed by the public about the administration of drugs at the hospital around 1998 and general concerns about standards which attracted coverage in the local media. The investigation will particularly look at whether, since 1998, trust systems have ensured good quality patient care and prevented harm to patients, looking in detail at:

- arrangements for administering drugs
- clarity of responsibility for patient care
- transfer arrangements for patients between Gosport war memorial hospital and other local hospitals

CHI will conduct the investigation with the cooperation of the organisations involved, including Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust, of which Gosport War Memorial Hospital is part, and its partner organisations.

CHI will begin the investigation by collecting relevant information and analysing it. Local organisations and members of the public will be invited to give their experience of care for older people at the hospital and these opportunities will be publicised locally. The investigation team will visit the hospital for a week and carry out interviews and visit clinical areas. A report, which will be available to the public, will be published next year.

General hospital services in Portsmouth are provided by a separate organisation, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, which is currently being reviewed by CHI as part of its rolling programme of routine assessments of every NHS organisation in England and Wales. Their review is not connected with this investigation.

CHI Chief Executive, Peter Homa, said "CHI is undertaking this investigation to look into concerns over the quality and culture of care that the patients, who are elderly and particularly vulnerable, have received at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The trust which runs the hospital is keen to work closely with us to address these concerns and work to improve the quality of care provided. The findings of our investigation will result in lessons for the whole of the NHS, and this is especially important at a time when community and primary care services are undergoing major change."

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors

- CHI is an independent body set up to help the NHS monitor and improve clinical care across England and Wales.
- CHI investigates serious service failures in the NHS when requested by the Secretary of State for Health in England and the National Assembly for Wales and will carefully consider other requests. CHI also undertakes a rolling programme of clinical governance reviews in every NHS trust, health authority, primary care group or trust and local health group across England and Wales.
- Further details of the investigation, including terms of reference and how local people can participate in the investigation, will be circulated in the next few weeks.

General

- The Commission's management structure comprises a Board with 13 commissioners and chairman, Dame Deirdre Hine.
- CHI does not cover Scotland as it has its own body, the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland. The First Minister for Northern Ireland may invite CHI to undertake work at some point in the future.
- CHI's role is to undertake regular clinical governance reviews as well as hold investigations or inquiries into serious service failures. It is also responsible for studies which monitor and review the implementation of National Service Frameworks and National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance.
- Further information on CHI is available on www.chi.nhs.uk.

For further information contact Alison Iliff or Matt Tee, CHI Communications Department, on 020 7448 9235 or 020 7448 9233. After hours phone 07779 111359 or 07974 329077.

Gosport War Memorial Hospital
Final TOR 18.10.01

1. Concerns have been raised with CHI about the quality of patient care for older people at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. These concerns include the following:
 - (i) Arrangements for the administration of drugs
 - (ii) Transfer arrangements for patients between the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and other local hospitals
 - (iii) Responsibility for patient care
 - (iv) The culture in which care is provided
2. As a result, in September 2001 CHI decided to undertake an investigation into the management, provision and quality of healthcare for which Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust is responsible at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
3. The investigation will look at whether, since 1998, there had been a failure of trust systems to ensure good quality patient care. The investigation will focus on the following elements within services for older people (inpatient, continuing and rehabilitative care) at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
 - (i) Staffing and accountability arrangements, including out of hours.
 - (ii) The guidelines and practices in place at the trust to ensure good quality care and effective performance management.
 - (iii) Arrangements for the prescription, administration, review and recording of drugs.
 - (iv) Communication and collaboration between the trust and patients, their relatives and carers and with partner organisations.
 - (v) Arrangements to support patients and their relatives and carers towards the end of the patients life
 - (vi) Supervision and training arrangements in place to enable staff to provide effective care.
4. In addition, CHI will examine how lessons to improve care have been learnt across the trust from patient complaints.
5. The investigation will also look at the adequacy of the trusts clinical governance arrangements to support inpatient continuing and rehabilitative care for older people.

Note:

Gosport War Memorial Hospital is managed by Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust and will become part of a Primary Care Trust (PCT) in April 2002.

Final TOR