

Copy letter to info.

Code A

5 February 1999

Dear D.I. Morgan.

I enclose photocopies of media coverage in the Times 6 - 9 January 1999 on the subject of 'back door euthanasia' - relevant I would submit to my mother's case.

The points I made very strongly to Dr Code A on 2 October 1998 with reference to the letter from the Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust (22 September 1998) were:

1. Page 2 Paragraph 4.

Dr Barton knowing my Mother had been discharged from hospital into her care 48 hours previously - having had a new hip, did not examine a 91 year old having had a fall from a chair onto her new hip - merely kept her quiet with a strong sedative. The dislocation of the new hip was discovered by a Nurse & Dr Barton approximately 8 hours after the fall. "Reckless negligence" Even a layman would have been concerned about the new hip.

2. Page 2. Sc. when she left hospital pain free according to medical staff - having been out

on her Zimmer - talking and after a breakfast
of porridge & egg. She was not terminal.

Page 3 ~~8E~~

This conversation did not take place. After
he & says on Monday afternoon my sister
informed Dr Barton (in my presence) that she had
been in contact with Haslar. The medical
staff had been appalled at the turn of events
& said she could be returned to Haslar. Dr
Barton had said to us both she might it would
be too much to transfer her that evening & a
decision would be made next morning. There
was no mention of surgical intervention
or general anaesthetic. In any case Dr Barton
was well aware that both the operation &
further manipulation had been carried out under
epidural.

When my sister & I arrived next morning (Tuesday)
at 9.15 we were informed by Nurse 'Philip' that
nothing could be done except give her a pain free
death with the aid of a syringe driver. No
mention was made of surgery or anaesthetic.
My sister (40 years nursing) & myself thinking
our mother was in a "terminal stage" agreed.
We did not see Dr. Barton until later in the
morning when she popped in to say the next
stage would be a chest infection. No mention
was made to surgery.

From Tuesday Dr. Barba did not see my mother
 to my knowledge - my sister & I were in
 attendance until death on Friday evening - we
 even slept in my mother's room - only
 leaving after death & laying out by my
 sister & niece & then waiting until my mother
 went to the morgue. At no time was there
 any indication of pneumonia. I did not know
 about the death certificate until my sister
 mentioned it after receipt of the letter 22 September
 1998. from Portonville Health Authority.

I would submit that my mother was not terminal
 on Monday or on Tuesday - had she been so it
 would not have taken until Friday to die. Her heart
 & vital functions were obviously strong. Anyone
 on a diet only of diamorphine would not have
 taken much larger particularly in view of
 dehydration. The drip should have been in place

Dr. Barba's ~~statement~~ statement that she
 discussed fully with the family is untrue &
 even my sister has confirmed that.

Death was hastened by omission of hydration
 & was covered up by a misleading death
 certificate and reckless omission of normal
 medical procedures.

Archbold has clear statements on such
 unlawful killing & apparently has the B.M.A.

It is perfectly true my mother at 91 could have died at any time - I am surprised she survived the shock & pain of the first fall at the Nursing home - let alone the operation & subsequent fall at the Cottage hospital - further manipulation at Baslar - subsequent manipulation at the Gosport College Hospital. Incidentally 8.a. is farcical as an answer. We were well aware that she came by ambulance & subsequently found out she was not carried on a canvas into bed - merely a sheet - being tipped onto the bed and hence the haematoma. There are two 'care assistants' who witnessed this.

I am not bringing this case to your attention because my Mother is involved - I would have done the same thing for anyone.

Perhaps Gosport CPS. will be gutsy enough to get a precedent set?

Yours sincerely

Code A

PS. Sorry my computer has gone on strike. Hope you do not have too much trouble with the writing.