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PORTSMOUTH
Health Care
NHS
TRUST

DR R I REID, FRCP
CONSULTANT GERIATRICIAN

Elderly Medicine
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Cosham
Portsmouth PO6 3LY

RIR/BJH/G081278

Tel: 01705 822444
Extension:
Direct Line: **Code A**
Fax: 01705 200381

17th March 1999

Mr M E Wilson

Code A

Dear Mr Wilson

Mr Millett, the Chief Executive, Portsmouth Healthcare Trust, has passed on to me your letter of 26th February.

I am sorry to learn that you are still concerned about the dose of Morphine which your mother received and I am writing to try to clarify this for you. I also enclose a photo-copy of the relevant part of your mother's prescription chart and a photo-copy from the British National Formulary, which gives information about Morphine and the recommended dosages. I have highlighted this in blue. I hope that with this and my comments, you will get a clearer picture about the doses of Morphine your mother received.

Your mother first received a dose of Oramorph oral solution at 1405 on the 12th November. Dosage given was 5 mg (2.5 mls). Unfortunately this dose did not relieve your mother's pain and the same dose was repeated at 1830 on the same day. As this dose also did not relieve your mother's pain, at 2237 on the same day she was given 10 mg (5 mls) of the Oramorph solution.

The same dose - 10 mg (5 mls) was given at 1025 on the 13th November and at 2225 the same day. A further dose of 10 mg (5 mls) was given at 1030 on 14th November and the same dose was given again at 00.50 on the 15th November. Your mother did not require any further Morphine until the 16th November at 2215.

You will see from the photo-copied article, which I have highlighted in blue, that Morphine can be given by mouth in doses of between 5 and 20 mg (2.5 - 10 mls) regularly every four hours. Your mother was therefore given the smallest recommended dose of Morphine - 5 mg (2.5 mls) on two occasions, slightly more than four hours apart.

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- 2 -

These doses of Morphine did not relieve your mother's pain and subsequently the dose was increased to 10 mg (5 mls) which is well within the recommended normal range.

I do hope that this information relieves your concerns.*

Yours sincerely

Code A

DR R I REID, FRCP
MEDICAL DIRECTOR -
Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust

- * If you would like to meet me to show you your mother's actual records, I would be very pleased to do so. Please give my secretary at Queen Alexandra Hospital a ring (Tel: 286920) to arrange a time. I shall be on holiday from 29th March - 5th April, but I'd be happy to meet you from 6th April onwards.

Code A