

21/4/09

BEST PRICE IN THE UK ONLY £92
 Edward's 023 80 511442 www.edwardshair.uk.com
 212 Gosport Road Shirley Southampton SO15 2JL

Daily Echo
 Looking for a new career?
 Study from home for a professional qualification

Daily Echo

Apr 21 2009 Weather Register Sign In All feeds

TRAVEL
 Great value Echo travel offers click here



SEND PICTURES TO US
 SEND US YOUR PICTURES AND VIDEO BY TEXT, EMAIL OR BY UPLOADING. CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT HOW.

News Sport Leisure Info Your Say Video Families Announcements
 In Depth Help For Heroes Sean Hodgson Barton Farm In Depth reports Cabinet in Southampton Romsey Park Murder
 Home News In Depth In Depth reports

Jobs Homes Cars Dating Money Buy&Sell Click2Find Advertise

Search

IN DEPTH REPORTS



In depth

Gosport War Memorial Hospital know as "end of the line"

3:45pm Monday 20th April 2009
 Comments (0) Have your say

GOSPORT War Memorial Hospital became known as the "end of the line" and as "death ward" as families saw their loved ones checked in apparently on the road to recovery only to die a few days later.

But despite a series of police investigations and NHS probes, none of the staff on Dryad and Daedalus wards at the hospital, then run by the now non-existent Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust, have been disciplined or charged with a criminal offence.

The month-long inquest held by Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Deputy Coroner Andrew Bradley heard one bereaved relative after another speak of their shock at the rapid deterioration of their loved ones after they entered the GWMH.

They believed their elderly relatives were given excessive doses of painkillers such as diamorphine which unnecessarily hastened their deaths.

Robert Wilson, 74, was admitted to Dryad ward in October 1998 after he suffered a broken arm.

He also suffered from liver problems because of a long-standing drink problem.

His son Iain Wilson told the inquest his father had made a good recovery at the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth from the fall that broke his arm.

But when he was transferred to GWMH, his condition deteriorated severely and he died four days later.

Mr Wilson said: "I went to give him a cuddle and he spoke his last words to me: 'Help me son, they are killing me.'"

"I said 'No they are not Dad, they are trying to do the best for you' and I left him there.

"When I went in the following day, he was in a coma."

Mr Wilson said staff would not explain why his father was being given diamorphine.

Mr Wilson said: "I think it is because of the drugs that his condition changed."

Professor Richard Baker, of the University of Leicester's department of health and science, examined the case and said that Mr Wilson might have left the hospital alive if he had not been put on diamorphine.

The cause of death given at the time was heart and liver failure.

In a statement read to the hearing, Prof Baker said: "The initiation of the diamorphine was inappropriate and the starting dose too high.

"Mr Wilson might have left the hospital alive if he had not been started on diamorphine."

Brian Cunningham, 79, was admitted to Dryad ward in September 1998 with serious bed sores and was given diamorphine when he became agitated. He died five days later.

His step-son Charles Farthing told the inquest the ward was known as "death ward" and that he believed his step-father had been "intentionally executed".

Professor David Black, an independent specialist in elderly care, said the dose increases in the last two days of Mr Cunningham's life were "excessive".

He told the inquest: "There is no justification given for these in the

IN THIS SECTION

Gosport War Memorial Hospital - 100 deaths dating back to the late 1990s

I was drinking myself to death

The Hampshire big cat files

The full list of big cat sightings in Hampshire

One in 400 babies born with cerebral palsy in UK

Saints frozen assets? - Part Two

Valentine's Day messages - Cont.

At over 40,000 staff Hampshire County Council will employ more than the Royal Navy

Park bench shooting victim lost life savings in biggest ever alleged fraud

Park bench shooting - cont.

ESSENTIAL LINKS

- Latest News Campaigns
- Saints Greenwatch
- Features Your Say
- SceneSouth Twitter Feed
- Reader Travel Echo Widgets
- Video News Mobile Headlines
- In depth Contact

SPONSORED LINKS

- Ashes into Glass**
 Cremated ashes made into glass "Keep the memory"
www.ashesintoglass.co.uk
- Bereavement Counselling**
 Specialist in Bereavement & loss Professional Service - Call Today
Essex-Counselling.co.uk/Counselling
- Gone Aways or Deceased?**
 Suppression or deletion of deceased and gone aways from your data
www.Data-Cleansing-Service.co.uk

Ads by Google

WHAT'S ON LIVE TRAVEL

YourEcho

09:00 Tile Barn »		April 2009						
09:00 Compton Acres »		S	M	T	W	T	F	S
09:00 Caroline Shotton Bliss charity Pictures »		29	30	31	1	2	3	4
09:00 Award Winning Lawrence Coulson at ... »		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SEE ALL ADD YOUR EVENT » EVENTS »		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	1	2

CINEMA LISTINGS »

Helping you through the recession...

FEATURED JOBS

- Office Clerk Winchester support workers southampton
- Practice Nurse & Receptionist/Secretary OFFICE/IT MANAGER FAREHAM
- Credit Controller Southampton RECEPTIONIST / CUSTOMER SERVICES SOUTHAMPTON

LOCAL PROMOTIONS



Live it. Visit Scotland.
visitscotland.com/perfectday

easyJet.com

LOCAL INFORMATION

Enter your postcode, town or place name
 Southampton Search

House prices » Schools » Crime » Hospitals »

HOUSES

3 bedroom House - semi-detached, Regents Park, £230,000, Cubitt & West

Free Info Here.
 Career-Changer.co.uk/EarnMoreMoney
Primary School For Autism
 Ofsted Ranked Us "Outstanding" Experts in Autism
 Education & Care.
 CambianEducation.com/AutismSchools
Wallace and Gromit games
 A series of four new comedy games. Download free trial
 here >
 www.TelltaleGames.com

Money Matters

Ads by Google

Find the
UK's
cheapest
car
insurance



The inquest has also heard that two other patients were apparently treated for the wrong medical problem while at the hospital.

Geoffrey Packman, 66, was being treated in September 1999 for a heart condition but staff failed to spot that he was also suffering from internal bleeding.

Professor Andrew Wilcock, an expert in palliative care, told the inquest he was also given "excessive amounts" of diamorphine and he died nine days after arriving on Dryad ward. The cause of death on his death certificate was a heart attack.