

HEARING: Woman testifies against doctor accused of misconduct

'Doctor told my mum: It won't be long now...'

by **Clare Semke**
Health reporter

A DAUGHTER claims her mother died hours after being given a cocktail of drugs at the Gosport War Memorial.

Marilyn Jackson told a General Medical Council panel she was shocked at mum Alice Wilkie's dramatic deterioration.

The 82-year-old dementia patient died 15 days after being transferred to the Daedalus ward for rehabilitation following a urinary tract infection.

The day before her death Mrs Jackson told the then ward manager Philip Beed her mother was in pain.

The GMC panel heard how Mrs Wilkie lost consciousness after being given a syringe driver – an automatic pump for administering drugs – containing Diamorphine, a form of heroin, and sedative Midazolam.

Mrs Jackson told the London hearing: 'When I went back at eight o' clock that evening she was unconscious.

RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT MEDIC CAN PRESCRIBE

DR BARTON was the only GP investigated in relation to 92 patient deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

She is already subject to seven conditions placed on her by the General Medical Council including a temporary ban on prescribing painkiller diamorphine.

Dr Barton – a partner at Forton Medical Centre at Whites Place, Gosport – must also restrict her prescribing of tranquiliser diazepam in-line with medical guidance.

The hearing comes after an inquest jury

at Portsmouth Coroner's Court in April heard that the deaths of five patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital were 'more than minimally' contributed to by the medication given.

In three cases they found the use of painkillers was inappropriate for their condition or symptoms.

But they also ruled that the medication had been administered for therapeutic reasons in all five cases and that medication had not contributed to a further five deaths.

'She never fluttered an eyelid.

'She never spoke.'

Mrs Wilkie died the following evening on August 21, 1998.

Speaking at the hearing into the fitness to practice of Dr Jane Barton – the GP at the centre of 12 patient deaths at the hospital – Mrs Jackson added: 'The only time I saw Dr Barton was in the morning when she walked into the ward.

'She ignored me and my

daughters. She walked round, looked at my mother and said "it won't be long now".'



Dr Jane Barton

Dr Barton has already admitted that dose ranges she prescribed to 11 of the patients in question were 'too wide' and 'potentially hazardous'.

The GP – who was clinical assistant at now-defunct Dryad and Daedalus wards where the patients died between 1996 and 1999 – also admitted her actions meant excessive drug doses could be administered to 11 of

the patients. In five cases the GP did not seek advice when their conditions deteriorated.

The five-strong panel is examining the care of Geoffrey Packman – known as Mick – Ruby Lake, 84, Robert Wilson, 74, Elsie Devine, 88, Leslie Pittock, 82, Elsie Lavender, 88, Arthur Cunningham, 79 – known as Brian, Enid Spurgeon, 92, Alice Wilkie, 82, Jean Stevens, Eva Page and Gladys Richards, 91.

Dr Barton denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding)
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