

Doctor: No regrets about medication

Dr Barton would not change care of patients who died at Gosport

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THE doctor at the centre of the deaths of 12 elderly patients at a hospital has 'no regrets' about the medication they received, a panel heard.

Dr Jane Barton told a General Medical Council hearing she would not change the care of the patients - who died on Dryad and Daedalus wards at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

She spoke out while being quizzed by a five-strong panel over her fitness to practice as a doctor. When asked by a panel member if she felt her actions were appropriate and

HEARING INTO FITNESS TO PRACTICE SET TO LAST 11 WEEKS

THE hearing into the fitness to practice of Dr Jane Barton is set to last 11 weeks.

It comes after an inquest jury at Portsmouth Coroner's Court in April heard the deaths of five patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital were 'more

than minimally' contributed to by medication given.

In three cases, they found the use of painkillers was inappropriate but they also ruled the medication had been administered for therapeutic reasons in all five cases and that medica-

tion had not contributed to a further five deaths.

The panel is examining Dr Barton's conduct in relation to 12 patients aged in their 70s, 80s and 90s.

She denies serious professional misconduct.

whether she would change anything, Dr Barton replied: 'In the days and hours of their dying I would not have done anything differently.'

Speaking at the end of week seven of the hearing at Regents Place, Euston Road, London, she added: 'I have no regrets about the medication any of those patients received.'

When asked by another panellist whether it mattered if there was an overdose of opiates if a patient was dying, she said: 'That is a very good question, isn't it? If you believe that and you think that's true, why am I here?

'Because I'm accused of overdosing these people who were dying with opiates and I think probably overdosing anybody with anything is wrong, is incorrect and is unprofessional.'

'I think we did our best at all times to get the level appropriate for that particular patient at that particular time as they were dying.'

Dr Barton also said she felt that telling families their elderly relatives were being transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation, when in fact they were unlikely to recover, was a 'cop-out'.

She said: 'It's easier than saying sorry, there is nothing more we can do, your mother's condition is going to deteriorate over a period of time and she may well die.'

Dr Barton has admitted she failed to keep adequate notes, and dose ranges of painkiller Diamorphine and sedative Midazolam she prescribed were too wide, and could have led to too many drugs being given. She also admits some of her prescriptions were 'potentially hazardous'.

However, Dr Barton denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding)

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