

Code A

Code A

**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 09 July 2009 09:40  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 9 Jul 09

## Press Cuttings Summary

Thursday 9 July 2009

### Direct Mentions

#### Print Mentions

The GMC's consultation for the guidance on audio visual recording of patients is mentioned on the press gazettes website, after a pro-active sell-in from the press office:

<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=1&storycode=43943&c=1>

*BMA News* (4 Jul 09)

Most of the GMC mentions this week come from the BMA's recent annual representatives meeting (ARM):

- The first mention is in regards to concerns that medical schools are using the threat of possible fitness to practise procedures to punish students over minor infractions. The students committee have asked for the GMC to monitor the student *Fitness to Practise* guidance's implementation.
- Calls to allow doctors to pray and discuss religion with their patients were rejected. Doctors mentioned GMC guidance on personal beliefs.
- There is a mention that the revised edition of the GMC's *Tomorrow's Doctors* guidance is due to be launched later this summer.
- The issue of doctors volunteering at the London Olympics was also raised, amid concerns doctors may not have the correct indemnity cover.
- The ARM also agreed that revalidation procedures should not be too cumbersome on doctors and the costs should be met by the government. The article also clarifies that responsible officers abusing their position would be referred to the GMC and there have been calls for GMC affiliates to be independently appointed.
- The front page mention is also in regards to the cost of revalidation. The DH has stated that clear guidelines on what evidence doctors need to produce could save money. In a letter to the BMA, they have said that doctors will be told what evidence would be acceptable. The article also mentions that there will be a range of pilots to test, amongst other things, GMC affiliates.
- A letter from one doctor takes issue with the next rise in the GMC's Annual Retention Fee (ARF). The author says that doctors should be given a pay award that goes toward this.

*Pharmaceutical Marketing* notes the November 16 deadline for doctors in the UK to have a license to practice, if they should require one to do so.

The *Birmingham Mail* and *Birmingham Post* report on figures that show an increase in the number of hospital operation errors over the past five years. The article also mentions that one west midlands anaesthetist, Christopher Vella Bonnici was suspended by the GMC for a month after improper conduct during operations.

There are regional mentions of the following fitness to practise cases:

- Dr Jonathan Chahal - allegations of procuring and abusing drugs (hearing is ongoing)
- Dr Jane Barton - alleged irresponsible prescribing to patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (hearing ongoing)

The *Oncology Times* runs an article about how best to integrate healthcare systems in the UK and US. In regards to complementary therapies, the article states that: "...in the UK the GMC requires registration of all health professionals and that integrative therapies are subject to regulation by the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council".

The *Times Higher Education Supplement* covers the issue of student fitness to practise, including recent stories about the 'Conscientiousness Index'. It notes that most complaints about doctors are "about their behaviour not their lack of knowledge". The full story can be read at:

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=407295&c=1>

### Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions today.

### Times Letters page and GMC published responses

There are no letters today.

### Other News

Representatives from the London Local Medical Committees and BMA have accused the government of scaremongering over the predicted swine flu pandemic. They say the outbreak is no worse than other seasonal flu. (*Daily Telegraph*).

Columnist Anne Johnstone, writing in *The Herald*, explains why she feels relieved that Lord Falconer's amendment to the Coroner and Justice Bill was rejected recently, in light of her previously writing in support of MSP Code A Code A on End of Life care issues. She feels that clarity on whether people who assist their relatives to die is not needed and some elderly people may need to be protected.

### Headlines:

#### GMC

Birmingham Mail

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 360

Appalling ops errors revealed

Hundreds of medical errors, including leaving surgical equipment inside a patient's body, are dogging hospitals in the Midlands - with an average of one every other day. Notes the GMC.

#### GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 128

Agenda for fees equality

Comment: "Once again June has arrived and with it the demand for more money for GMC registration."

#### GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 413

Stronger guidelines on revalidation could save NHS cash, DH tells BMA

There will be a range of pilots testing aspects of the system that include strengthened appraisals, responsible officers, GMC affiliates and how feedback is used.

#### GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 160

Concern over draconian university disciplinary action

Medical schools should not be using the threat of fitness-to-practise proceedings for trivial non-medical misdemeanours, the meeting heard. BMA medical students committee joint deputy chair Drew Kinmond said students supported the use of such procedures against individuals who put patients at risk. MSC chair Tim Crocker-Buque said the committee would be watching closely implementation of the joint GMC and Medical Schools Council guidance Medical Students: Professional Values and Fitness to Practise. The guidance is an attempt to standardise fitness-to-practise procedures. Doctors agreed that the GMC should also monitor implementation.

## GMC

### BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 136

#### SIGN ON THE DONATION LINE:

Doctors were urged to donate their bodies to medical science. The plea for cadavers was made by BMA medical academic staff committee co-chair Peter Dangerfield as the meeting debated the place of basic sciences in the undergraduate medical curriculum. The meeting decided the BMA should look at the issue of minimum standards for such teaching. The GMC is due to publish its revised blueprint for medical education, Tomorrow's Doctors, which is likely to address this, later in the summer.

## GMC

### BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 115

#### Mixing spiritual matters with medicine voted off limits

Calls to allow doctors to discuss spiritual matters with consenting patients were rejected. Doctors also rejected a suggestion that offering to pray for patients should not be grounds for suspension. Doctors said the NHS was committed to providing spiritual care to patients and noted GMC guidance.

## GMC

### BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 162

#### Indemnity concerns over Olympics volunteers

Expectations that doctors will volunteer to help at the 2012 Olympics have raised questions about their legal cover, the BMA warned. BMA medico-legal committee chair Jan Wise told the ARM his committee would be working to address this and other issues with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games. He added that the NHS indemnity scheme did not cover appearances before the GMC or conflicts with employers.

## GMC

### BMA News

Delivery date : 04/07/2009

Number of words : 412

#### Government must be urged to meet bill for revaluation

Revalidation must not be 'overly onerous' for doctors and should be funded by the government, the ARM agreed. Edinburgh GP Stuart Blake said it was important that doctors were neither penalised financially nor forced to spend so much time on revalidation that they had less time for patients. BMA Northern Ireland consultants committee chair Stephen Austin had raised concerns that doctors who had contractual disputes with their employers could 'feel under great pressure' to drop such issues out of fear that they might affect their revalidation. But Joint Medical Consultative Council chair Alan Russell, who has participated in GMC working groups looking at ROs and GMC affiliates, which link local and national regulatory processes, said that group members were 'reasonably happy' about medical directors acting as ROs.

## Doctors

### Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 09/07/2009

Number of words : 86

---

Swine flu response is over the top, say leading GPs

GPs accused the Government of scaremongering over the outbreak of swine flu and said the disease was no worse than seasonal influenza.

---

GMC

Liverpool Echo

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 339

Giggling doc admits patients were lucky

A giggling doctor who inhaled "laughing gas" while on duty at a children's A&E ward admitted he was fortunate not to harm his patients.

---

GMC

Oncology Times

Delivery date : 01/07/2009

Number of words : 1570

Teamwork essential to bring fully integrated care to the patient

Experts from the US and the UK met to discuss integrated healthcare systems in the two countries and stressed the importance of the multidisciplinary team in providing fully holistic care.

---

GMC

Pharmaceutical Marketing

Delivery date : 01/07/2009

Number of words : 2162

MOVERS OF THE MONTH

Appointments overview, noting the GMC.

---

GMC

Pharmaceutical Marketing

Delivery date : 01/07/2009

Number of words : 143

NEW DOCTOR'S LICENCE

From November 16, all doctors in the UK will need a licence in order to practise medicine, the General Medical Council (GMC) has announced.

---

GMC

The Birmingham Post

Delivery date : 08/07/2009

Number of words : 499

Hospital blunders on rise in West Midlands

Article regarding medical errors in the West Midlands, noting the GMC.

---

End of Life

The Herald

Delivery date : 09/07/2009

Number of words : 1133

We should help the sick to live, not hasten their deaths

Under the law as it stands, some people die in pain without the dignity they had hoped for.

---

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 455

Expert says the use of sedation therapy is cause for concern

A medical expert fears large drug doses could have intentionally been used to hasten patients' deaths at a hospital.

---

### **Web links:**

#### **National Newspapers:**

[The Times](#)

[The Independent](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Daily Telegraph](#)

[The Daily Mail](#)

[The Daily Mirror](#)

[The Daily Express](#)

[The Sun](#)

[The Financial Times](#)

#### **Online Media:**

[The BBC](#)

[Channel 4](#)

[Sky](#)

#### **Other Regular Newspapers:**

[The Scotsman](#)

[The Herald](#)

[The Press & Journal](#)

[The Manchester Evening News](#)

[Irish News](#)

[Belfast Telegraph](#)

[News Letter](#)

[South Wales Echo](#)

[South Wales Evening Post](#)

[Western Mail](#)

#### **Medical Press:**

[Pulse](#)

[BMJ](#)

[HSJ](#)

[The Lancet](#)

[The Press Cuttings Website](#)