

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 08 June 2009 10:00
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings Monday 8 June

Press Cuttings Summary

Monday 8 June

Direct Mentions

Print and Online Mentions

An article in today's *Guardian* reports that the fitness to practise case of Dr Jane Barton from Gosport War Memorial hospital is due to begin today. The article says that the GMC imposed an Interim Order last year restricting the doctor from prescribing painkillers to patients. Norman Lamb, the Liberal Democrats' health spokesperson is backing the families' case and says that the GMC was alerted to the situation early on 'could have moved faster'.

UTV also reports on the Dr Barton case. The article mentions that the GMC has previously imposed interim conditions on Dr Barton's registration and includes the same quote from Norman Lamb:

<http://new.u.tv/News/Pressure-grows-for-inquiry-into-deaths-of-elderly-patients-at-Gosport-hospital/387819d3-d172-48e5-a565-3cac8c477bc5>

BBC Online covers the recent fitness to practise hearing of Dr Graham Bond. Dr Bond's practise was found to not be impaired and he was not issued with a warning:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bradford/8086478.stm>

Broadcast Mentions

BBC One South this morning reported the GMC's fitness to practise case of Dr Jane Barton.

Times Letters

A letter from a doctor about the new health secretary says that medical practitioners spend a lifetime refining new skills and asks 'is it any wonder that NHS management totally lacks continuity...?'

Other News

There is widespread coverage of the news that a stroke victim died after an ambulance driver who had finished his shift drove to his depot to clock off instead of going to hospital.

The Daily Mail reports that the BBC is facing a legal bill of over £1 million after settling a libel battle with IVF doctor Mohammed Taranissi.

The extent of Swine Flu infection in the UK is being underestimated because hospitals are failing to test patients with respiratory illnesses, according to The Times.

In his Daily Telegraph column, Max Pemberton argues for the value of the MMR vaccine saying that the Health Protection Agency is now predicting an epidemic of measles and that Sir Sandy Macara, former BMA chair is calling for the compulsory vaccination of all state school children.

Headlines:

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 740

FINGER ON THE PULSE

Ignore the doubters: the value of the MMR vaccine is beyond dispute, says Max Pemberton

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

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FINGER ON THE PULSE

The Health Protection Agency is now predicting an epidemic of measles. So serious has the threat become that last week Sir Sandy Macara, former chairman of the British Medical Association, called for MMR vaccination to be compulsory for all children attending state school.

GMC

The Guardian

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 805

Pressure grows for inquiry into deaths of elderly patients

Pressure is growing for a public inquiry into a series of deaths of elderly people at a hospital in Gosport, Hampshire, as a doctor, Jane Barton, faces the General Medical Council today charged with giving patients excessive doses of the drug diamorphine. Sir Liam Donaldson, the chief medical officer, commissioned Richard Baker, professor of medical governance at Leicester University, to carry out an audit of deaths at Gosport, but that report has not been made public.

GMC

The Guardian

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Miscellaneous

The Times

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 418

Patient died after paramedic clocked off

A stroke victim died after an ambulance driver who had finished his shift drove to his depot to clock off instead of going to hospital. The driver complained to a colleague that he had worked 15 minutes' overtime already and wanted someone else to take over. The driver, a paramedic, and an advanced technician, who was in the back of the vehicle attending to Mr Asghar, have been suspended as health chiefs investigate the incident.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 576

BBC's £1m backdown in libel fight with IVF doctor

The BBC is facing a legal bill of well over £1million after settling a libel battle with top IVF doctor Mohamed Taranissi. Mr Taranissi, who is said to have helped mothers give birth to 2,300 babies in seven years, had accused the Panorama programme of making defamatory allegations. Yesterday it emerged that the BBC has come to a settlement with the Egyptian-born doctor, with the corporation paying both sides' legal bills.

Miscellaneous

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 259

Patient died after paramedic made a detour 'to clock off'

A critically-ill patient died after a paramedic took a detour en route to hospital - so he could end his shift. He drove his ambulance to a depot to swap over with another crew, insisting that he was already 15 minutes late clocking off. The diversion added half a mile to the journey and meant precious minutes that could have been vital in saving Ali Asghar's life were lost. Paul Liversidge, director of operations at North East Ambulance Service, said: 'There was an avoidable delay. How long is irrelevant. It simply should never have happened'.

Miscellaneous

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 313

Patient dies after his paramedic clocks off

A stroke patient died after a paramedic allegedly refused to work beyond his shift and clocked off part-way through a 999 journey. The patient died of a suspected heart attack soon after arriving at North Tees hospital in Stockton.

Miscellaneous

The Sun

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 126

Fury over 'fatal' 999 diversion

An ambulance driver who diverted a 999 call so he could clock off was yesterday blasted over the death of the patient he had been carrying. Dad-of-four Ali Asghar died from a suspected heart attack in A& E. But it emerged the ambulance driver wasted four crucial minutes with a detour to the depot so he could end his shift.

Miscellaneous

The Times

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 60

999 two suspended

A 69-year-old stroke victim died after an ambulance driver diverted to a depot instead of going to North Tees Hospital in Stockton, Teesside. The driver complained to a colleague that he had overrun his shift by 15 minutes. The paramedic and the medic attending to the patient have been suspended pending an investigation. A new driver headed to the hospital.

Miscellaneous

The Times

Delivery date : 08/06/2009

Number of words : 591

Swine flu cases 'being missed as hospitals fail to check patients'

The extent of swine flu infection in the UK is being underestimated because hospitals are failing to test patients with respiratory illnesses for the virus, according to one of the world's leading experts on the disease. Professor Neil Ferguson, an epidemiologist at Imperial College London, who advises the Government and the World Health Organisation, said that serious cases of swine flu were almost certainly being missed because hospital surveillance was "almost non-existent". Speaking at The Times Cheltenham Science Festival, he said that there was anecdotal evidence of "significant numbers" of cases of severe respiratory illness in London, which should be checked in case they were caused by swine flu.

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