

Code A

46924604

From: Code A  
 Sent: 26 April 2009 10:43  
 To: Press Cuttings  
 Subject: Press cuttings Sunday 26 April

2262

## Press Cuttings Summary

Sunday 26 April 2009

### Direct Mentions

### Print and Online Mentions

The Independent on Sunday reports on calls for a public inquiry into the deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, saying that the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice refused calls for an inquiry from local police and a coroner in 2007. The article says ' But the DoH claimed yesterday that a public inquiry... was refused on ground that it would duplicate work done or underway by the police and health regulators...'. Relatives are quoted as saying that the 'piecemeal investigations since 1998 by the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the local NHS Trust, the General Medical Council and the Council for Health Improvement have all failed adequately to explain the large number of deaths amongst patients...'. A solicitor from law firm Blake Laphorn urges the remaining 82 families to come forward, saying that public inquiries were held in the contemporary cases of Shipman, Beverley Allit, Bristol and Alder Hey. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gosport-deaths-not-important-enough-to-justify-public-inquiry-1674372.html>

The Sunday Telegraph reports on concerns about the purchase of prescription drugs online, noting that 'several websites based in this country remained within the law by insisting on a free " consultation" with a doctor registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) -essentially a basic online quiz -before supplying prescription drugs.' Changes to the law in November allowing the websites to use the services of doctors in 31 countries are noted. The final paragraph says ' The GMC, which regulates doctors,said current guidance makes clear that doctors who prescribe on line must gather sufficient information to prescribe safely, but said it would work with the MHRA on the issues raised.' <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/5220408/Explosion-in-drug-websites-puts-patients-at-risk.html>

The Sunday Mail carries a piece on Dr Christopher Rowlands; 'A General Medical Council source revealed " We've been told by police that Rowlands is wanted for questioning in connection with an allegation about a rape".'.

### Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions to note.

### Letters

There are no letters to note.

### Other News

There is widespread coverage of the World Health Organisation's consideration of the 'pandemic potential' of the emergence of swine flu in Mexico and the United States.

Against the background of news that independent MSP [Code A](#) has secured sufficient signatures to allow her proposed Bill on assisted suicide to go forward, [http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2504227.0.MSP\\_wins\\_her\\_fight\\_to\\_bring\\_suicide\\_bill\\_to\\_Holyrod.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2504227.0.MSP_wins_her_fight_to_bring_suicide_bill_to_Holyrod.php) the Herald carries a range of letters from high profile contributors responding to Archbishop Mario Conti's letter of 23 April opposing physician assisted suicide.

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/letters/display.var.2504142.0.archbishop\\_contis\\_arguments\\_could\\_support\\_assisted\\_suicide.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/letters/display.var.2504142.0.archbishop_contis_arguments_could_support_assisted_suicide.php)

#### Headlines:

GMC

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 26/04/2009

Number of words : 787

Situation critical : the dangerous drugs available without checks

Hundreds of websites, many based in Britain, are selling dangerous drugs which should only be prescribed by doctors, a Sunday Telegraph investigation has found. Slimming pills, anti-depressants and drugs for skin complaints, hair-loss and stroke prevention are being sold online alongside treatments for cancer. The drugs are posted to buyers who have not been seen by doctors.

GMC

Independent on Sunday

Delivery date : 26/04/2009

Number of words : 854

Gosport deaths 'not important enough' to justify public inquiry

Questions remain to be answered after 92 elderly people died unexpectedly at the same Hampshire hospital. The Government rejected repeated calls for a public inquiry into the unexpected deaths of 92 elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital because it was not of "national importance".

GMC

Sunday Mail

Delivery date : 26/04/2009

Number of words : 166

Rape quiz doc 'has vanished overseas'

A disgraced doctor wanted for questioning over an alleged rape has vanished abroad. Wife-beating GP Christopher Rowlands disappeared overseas after the Sunday Mail revealed Strathclyde Police wanted to speak to him about the sex assault claims. A General Medical Council source revealed: "We've been told by police that Rowlands is wanted for questioning in connection with an allegation of rape."

Miscellaneous

The Herald

Delivery date : 25/04/2009

Number of words : 771

Archbishop Conti's arguments could, ironically, be used in support of physician-assisted suicide

Archbishop Mario Conti claims that legalising physician-assisted suicide "would give doctors a rule so contrary to their noble profession, which is grounded in sustaining life and relieving suffering".

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**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](#)[Hospital Doctor](#)[Doctor](#)[BMJ](#)[HSJ](#)[The Lancet](#)**The Press Cuttings Website****Code A****Head of Scottish Affairs  
General Medical Council****GMC Scotland  
5th Floor, The Tun  
4 Jackson's Entry  
Holyrood Rd  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8PJ****direct line: 0131 525 8702****mobile: 07769 687516****fascimile: 0131 525 8701**

The GMC is currently consulting on new draft guidance entitled *End of life treatment and care: good practice in decision-making*. To find out more and take part in our consultation, please go to [www.gmc-uk.org/end\\_of\\_life\\_care](http://www.gmc-uk.org/end_of_life_care). The consultation closes on 13 July 2009.