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Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 17 June 2009 09:24
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 17 June 2009

Press Cuttings Summary

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Direct Mentions

Print Mentions

National Health Executive (May/Jun 09)

- Dr Malcom Lewis writes an Opinion Editorial piece about the concept of continuing professional development and the GMC's CPD board. The article also touches on revalidation saying "...revalidation is very much concerned with the good practice of the majority."
- Peter Bodley-Scott discusses the issues facing revalidation and the questions being asked by healthcare professionals about this, including whether revalidation would stop "another Dr Shipman" and the concerns of some doctors about having to act as "whistle-blowers" against colleagues. Bodley-Scott concludes that "Only when clarity is provided and transparent, yet fair, procedures and processes are implemented, will confidence in the initiative be realised"

The Sun features a piece about 'soft sentencing', and includes the case study of Stephen Mason, who was assaulted by Dr Nik Mann. The piece notes that Warwick Crown Court sentenced Dr Mann to 200 hours of community service following his pleading guilty to grievous bodily harm, and that the GMC 'also let Mann off lightly. Suspended for 12 months, it allowed him to return to work in April this year.'

The Daily Mail reports on the fitness to practise hearing for Dr Michael Ormiston & Dr Wasfy Yanny:
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1193315/Woman-died-operation-stop-sweating-much.html>

There is further coverage on Dr Jane Barton's fitness to practise hearing (*The Portsmouth News* website). The piece describes how a relative of patient Arthur Cunningham accused Dr Barton of "murdering" him:
<http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/newshome/Man39s-relative-told-doctor-she.5367412.jp>

The *Press and Journal* reports that Dr Douglas Harris, who is facing child pornography charges at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, has denied possession of indecent images of children, and that he is suspended by the GMC.

Broadcast Mentions

There were mentions this morning on BBC Radio and TV about patients of Code A who sexually assaulted them, planning to sue him. The news items mention that Dr Tate was recently erased from the medical register by the GMC.

Times Letters page and GMC published responses

A letter from William Reichel, who says that he is 'a physician who has studied physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia since 1988' explains some of the history of the subject in the Netherlands.

Other News

The Daily Telegraph reports that hospital consultants will have to work longer hours to support trainees restricted by the hours imposed by the European Working Time Directive.

The Daily Telegraph also reports that a man has been charged with the murder of his terminally ill father; the man is suspected to have strangled his father as an act of mercy.

A man posing as a doctor, calling himself Dr Glyn, is offering female 'patients' gynaecological advice online, according to *The Scottish Sun*.

London Lite includes several letters which refer to the feature about Alan Rees, who helped his partner Raymond Cutkelvin to die.

On 16 June *The Scotsman* and *Herald* both carried several pieces examining the final report of the Commission on Scottish Devolution (the 'Calman Commission'), *Serving Scotland Better*. The report recommends that regulation of all health professions is reserved to Westminster. This would mean a transfer of powers to regulate new professions from the Scottish Parliament to Westminster. Both papers also highlight the recommendation that organisations with charitable status need only register with one of the UK's charity regulators:

http://www.theherald.co.uk/search/display.var.2514568.0.powers_returned_to_westminster.php ;
http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2514580.0.Calmans_Holyrood_blueprint_wins_PMs_backing.php ,
<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Calman39s-bold-proposals-to-empower.5367751.jp> ,
<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Critics-confounded-by-radical-.5367796.jp>

The Press and Journal reports that NHS Grampian and NHS Lothian will be involved in a pilot looking at public involvement in decision-making.

Onmedica includes a comment from Dr Laurence Buckman, in which he states that 'GPs are not considering and have never considered strike action over (working in a flu pandemic) and the BMA would not support such action.'

<http://www.onmedica.com/NewsArticle.aspx?id=3d6511bf-4eec-466c-9b79-b360a11681db>

The Christian Medical Fellowship is to host a conference on End of Life issues, according to *Christian Today*:

http://www.christiantoday.com/article/christian_conference_to_address_euthanasia/23609.htm

Headlines:

Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 315

Consultants to fill gap as junior doctors do less

Hospital consultants will have to work more nights and weekends to support trainees whose hours are being cut to a maximum of 48 a week due to European legislation, health officials have said.

GMC

The Sun

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 1703

Judge refused to jail the thug who kept me with brain damage... because he's doctor

Furious victims, cops and even a judge have blasted soft sentences after thugs cheated justice in three shocking cases.

End of Life

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 424

Son charged after father is found strangled in hospital

Postal worker Ralph Stephenson, 45, from Stanley, Co Durham was last night charged with the murder of his terminally ill father who was found strangled in his hospital bed in what is being investigated as a possible mercy killing.

GMC

The Press and Journal
 Delivery date : 17/06/2009
 Number of words : 98

Doctor faces trial over child porn charges

A doctor facing child pornography charges has appeared in court again.

End of Life

London Lite
 Delivery date : 16/06/2009
 Number of words : 352

Long-term ill need a choice...

Reader's letters on assisted suicide.

Doctors

The Sun
 Delivery date : 17/06/2009
 Number of words : 217

FAKE DOC IN ONLINE SEX QUIZ

A BOGUS online doctor is conning women into giving him intimate details about their bodies to fulfil his own sleazy desires.

NHS issues

The Press and Journal
 Delivery date : 17/06/2009
 Number of words : 321

NHS Grampian to take part in pilot scheme

NHS Grampian will be involved in a pilot scheme to see how to involve the public in decision-making..

Miscellaneous

The Times
 Delivery date : 17/06/2009
 Number of words : 677

Prisoner's medical rights were violated

Law report looking at a prisoners medical rights.

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

Source: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/man-s-relative-told-doctor-she-was-murderer-1-1233858>

Man's relative told doctor she was murderer

10:16 Tuesday 16 June 2009 13:16 Monday 15 June 2009

A relative accused a doctor of murdering his stepfather when she refused to stop giving him a powerful cocktail of drugs, a panel heard.

Charles Stewart-Farthing said he had asked Dr Jane Barton to remove a syringe driver – an automatic pump for giving drugs – from 69-year-old Arthur Cunningham, a patient at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

But he told a General Medical Council hearing in London yesterday that Dr Barton had turned down his request.

Mr Stewart-Farthing told the panel: 'She refused bluntly and said she couldn't authorise the removal due to the pain he would experience, at which point I accused her of murdering him and the interview was terminated rather quickly after that.'

Mr Cunningham, from Gosport, who had Parkinson's disease, was pronounced dead at 11.15pm on September 26, 1998 – five days after being admitted to Dryad ward with a bedsore.

Dr Barton – who was clinical assistant at the ward when Mr Cunningham died – admits dose ranges of diamorphine – a form of heroin – and sedative midazolam she pre-prescribed him were too wide.

The GP also admits the prescriptions could have led to him being given excessive and 'potentially hazardous' amounts of medication.

And Dr Barton concedes that she did not ask for advice when Mr Cunningham's condition deteriorated.

Mr Stewart-Farthing last saw his stepfather conscious on the day of his admission.

He received a phone call a day later saying medics had administered drugs to 'quieten him down' after he allegedly became aggressive and hurled abuse – including racist comments – at hospital staff.

When he returned following a trip to London the next day Mr Cunningham was unconscious.

Mr Stewart-Farthing said: 'He had gone from being a normal person who could converse to someone who was totally unconscious.'

The General Medical Council panel is also assessing Dr Barton's actions in relation to 11 other patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

All of them died on now defunct Dryad or Daedalus wards there between 1996 and 1999.

Dr Barton denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding)

INQUEST JURY FOUND PAINKILLERS INAPPROPRIATE

The hearing into the fitness to practise of Dr Barton – who denies serious professional misconduct – is set to last 11 weeks.

It comes after an inquest jury in April said 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 the medication had been administered for therapeutic reasons in all five cases and that medication had not contributed to a further five deaths.

The GP – a partner at Forton Medical Centre, Whites Place, Gosport – was clinical assistant on the now defunct Dryad and Daedalus wards where the patients died between 1996 and 1999.

Dr Barton could be banned from practising medicine if found guilty by the General Medical Council.

The panel is examining her conduct in relation to the care, treatment and subsequent deaths of Geoffrey Packman, 66 – 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, Jean Stevens, 73, Eva Page and Gladys Richards, 91.