

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 19 June 2009 09:23
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 19 June 2009



Ballymena
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Press Cuttings Summary

Friday 19 June 2009

Direct Mentions

Print Mentions

There are two pieces placed by the press office in the *Antrim Guardian* and *Ballymena Guardian* which report on the GMC's End of Life Care consultation – articles are attached.

GP (19 June)

- A poll of GPs has found that two-thirds would like to see a GMC-style authority for the registration of NHS managers, though some criticised the plan as it would add another layer of cost and bureaucracy to the NHS.

On 17 June the *Edinburgh Evening News* reported that detectives are hunting a man posing as a 'Doctor Glyn' on the internet. The piece states that 'checks with the General Medical Council had drawn a blank':

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Police-hunt-for-pervert-posing.5372833.jp>

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

- Dr Jayanta Raychaudhuri (fitness to practise not impaired; no warning issued)
- Code A (erased from the medical register)
- Code A (hearing is ongoing)
- Dr Jane Barton (hearing is ongoing)

Michael Fitzpatrick, writing in *Community Care* about the recent Baby Peter case, notes that no system will be infallible against protecting children from child abuse and that it is unwise for health professionals to adopt a default attitude that all parents are potentially guilty of child abuse. Fitzpatrick mentions Code A recently losing his High Court bid to overturn a GMC decision to erase him from the medical register.

Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions today.

Times Letters page and GMC published responses

There are no letters today.

Other News

HSJ (18 June)

- The journal looks at how end of life care is slowly beginning to change, with case studies from health trusts across England.

The *South Wales Evening Post* provides a comment on the impending debate in the House of Lords and the Law Lords about voluntary euthanasia, hoping that a conclusion is found that relieves end of life patients and their loved ones from further suffering.

According to the *Herald* on 18 June, BMA Scotland has criticised the proposed Patients' Rights (Scotland) Bill for potentially leading to a 'confrontational or litigious approach which could hinder open, communicative relationships between patients and the NHS staff who treat them':

http://www.theherald.co.uk/search/display.var.2514907.0.doctors_warn_rights_bill_could_undermine_nhs.php

The *Aberdeen Press & Journal* reported on 18 June that a patient, Barbara Glidden, has lodged an official complaint against NHS Grampian claiming that doctors forcibly injected her with an anti-psychotic drug:

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1267728>

Headlines:

End of Life

HSJ Health Service Journal

Delivery date : 18/06/2009

Number of words : 2288

BEGINNING OF THE END

A feature about End of Life Care and the Department of Health.

GMC

Community Care

Delivery date : 18/06/2009

Number of words : 576

Let's not forget most parents are committed to child welfare

Following the baby Peter case, Michael Fitzpatrick doubts if professionals becoming more intrusive and suspicious will prevent further child deaths. Notes the GMC.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 19/06/2009

Number of words : 325

Two thirds of GPs support GMC for managers'

Almost two-thirds of GPs want NHS managers to be registered with a GMC-style organisation, a GP survey has found.

End of Life

South Wales Evening Post

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 229

Reviewing law to end the pain

Two issues affecting the law on voluntary euthanasia are being considered in the House of Lords and by the Law Lords. They both concern removing the threat of prosecution from relatives - either those who accompany terminally ill people abroad for an assisted suicide, or those who help a loved-one die in this country.

GMC

Peterborough Evening Telegraph

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 464

Doctor who held up birth can still practise

No action will be taken against a hospital registrar whose "unprofessional" conduct during a mother's labour held up the baby's birth. Despite his actions being described as "inappropriate" and amounting to "serious misconduct", the General Medical Council ruled that Dr Jayanta Raychaudhuri was still fit to practise in his new role as a GP, posed no risk to patients and decided not to issue a warning.

GMC

The Argus

Delivery date : 16/06/2009

Number of words : 336

Patients' plan to sue guilty GP

Patients of a GP found guilty by the GMC of inappropriate behaviour are planning to sue him for compensation.

GMC

The Birmingham Post

Delivery date : 18/06/2009

Number of words : 440

Care home patients 'were placed at risk' by doctor

A disgraced doctor could be banned from practising medicine by the GMC after a catalogue of errors at care homes she was running.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 17/06/2009

Number of words : 485

Unrousable patients 'the norm' after painkillers

It was 'normal' for elderly patients to lose consciousness after being given powerful painkillers at a hospital, a GMC panel has heard.

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/unrousable-patients-the-norm-after-painkillers-1-1236367#ixzz3shZlTXRR>

Unrousable patients 'the norm' after painkillers

10:25 Wednesday 17 June 2009 18:16 Tuesday 16 June 2009

It was 'normal' for elderly patients to lose consciousness after being given powerful painkillers at a hospital, a panel has heard.

Former nurse Margaret Couchman told a General Medical Council hearing patients would often become unrousable when dosed with diamorphine – a form of heroin – and sedatives at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Ms Couchman, who worked on the now defunct Daedalus ward, said she would always give the lowest dose pre-prescribed by former clinical assistant Dr Jane Barton.

Dr Barton's fitness to practise is being assessed by a five-strong panel from the GMC after the death of 12 patients at the hospital in the late 1990s.

She has already admitted that dose ranges she prescribed to some patients on Dryad and Daedalus wards were too high, potentially hazardous and could have led to them being over-medicated.

However, Ms Couchman said she never questioned Dr Barton's actions in more than 10 years of working with her.

She told the hearing at Regent's Place, Euston Road, London: 'If the patient can't tell you exactly how much pain they are in the safest method was to give them the lowest dose and then assess the patient to see if that's correct.

'I didn't question her on any doses. I don't think any of us did. It just didn't arise and – at the time – it was just the dose that was given.'

Ms Couchman said she could not remember 88-year-old Elsie Lavender, whom she treated after her transfer to Daedalus ward on February 22, 1996.

A note on Mrs Lavender's drug chart said she had become 'unrousable' after being given a syringe driver – an automatic pump used to deliver drugs – containing high doses of the painkiller diamorphine and sedative midazolam. But Ms Couchman said this response was 'just normal'.

Mrs Lavender died on March 6, 1996.

Dr Barton's conduct is being examined in relation to Mrs Lavender's death and those of Geoffrey Packman, 66 – known as Mick; Ruby Lake, 84; Robert Wilson, 74; Elsie Devine,

88; Leslie Pittock, 82; Arthur Cunningham, 79 – known as Brian; Enid Spurgeon, 92; Alice Wilkie, 81; Jean Stevens; Eva Page and Gladys Richards, 91.

All of the deaths occurred between 1996 and 1999.

Dr Barton denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding.)

MEDICATION 'CONTRIBUTED TO DEATHS'

The General Medical Council hearing into Dr Jane Barton's fitness to practise comes after an inquest jury at Portsmouth Coroner's Court in April heard that 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.

Dr Barton is already subject to seven conditions placed on her by the General Medical Council, including a temporary ban on prescribing the painkiller diamorphine.

She must also restrict her prescribing of tranquiliser diazepam in line with medical guidance.

Read more: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/unrousable-patients-the-norm-after-painkillers-1-1236367#ixzz3shZITXRR>