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Code A

**From:** Code A  
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# Press Cuttings Summary

Wednesday 29 July 2009

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## Direct Mentions

### Print Mentions

In a feature placed by the press office, the *Times online* describes the latest version of 'GMP in Action', the interactive website which supplements Good Medical Practice through exploring some of the ethical dilemmas faced by doctors: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/health/article6730206.ece>

The PHG Foundation's website promotes the consultation into the GMC's draft research guidance: <http://www.phgfoundation.org/news/4732/>

An analysis from Dr Martin Lobley (accompanying the *Times* articles described below) reflects on GMC guidance on providing end of life care. Dr Lobley writes that '*the General Medical Council advises that patients' wishes or those of their immediate families should be carefully considered when the time comes to make decisions about end-of-life care.*' After citing examples such as that of a GP who may need to choose between taking a '*dying patient to hospital or to keep him comfortable at home*', Dr Lobley acknowledges that '*this is a different issue from that of assisted suicide and in many ways it is more challenging.*'

*The Daily Telegraph's* 'birthdays' notes that Lord Kilpatrick of Kincaig, president of the GMC from 1989-95, is 83 today.

Baroness Audrey Emerton, a former lay member of the GMC, has visited the human and health sciences department at Huddersfield University, according to the *Huddersfield Daily Examiner*.

The *Lancashire Evening Post* reports that Peter Robinson, who has been suspended by the GMC for breaching patient confidentiality, has apologised to two of his patients.

Dr Michael Shillingford's fitness to practise case is reported by *The Argus*: <http://www.magentanews.com/cache.asp?n=6562027>

### Broadcast Mentions

The BBC covered two of the GMC's fitness to practise hearings: Dr Jane Barton (BBC One South) and Dr Michael Shillingford (BBC Radio Sussex).

### Times Letters page and GMC published responses

A letter from Jessica Hodge, daughter of Jane Aiken Hodge (see summary below), describes the bureaucracy which 'has turned a family tragedy into some appalling form of soap opera.' <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article6730833.ece>

### Other News

*The Times* includes two articles around the theme of 'right to die.' The first, trailed on the front page, is a profile of the author Jane Aiken Hodge, who ended her own life at the age of 91 by taking an overdose of pills. She had left strict

instructions not to be revived or resuscitated and her GP, who visited her over the four days after her overdose and prior to her death, respected her wishes.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/health/article6731176.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article6731176.ece)

The second describes the 'challenge' issued to the police from former doctor **Code A** who has said that he would plead guilty as a 'martyr' to the cause of campaigning for assisted suicide were he accused of assisting the death of Raymond Cutkelvin. Dr Irwin had paid a contribution to the cost of helping Mr Cutkelvin travel to Dignitas' clinic, having previously been erased from the GMC register after helping a friend to die in 2005.

On 28 July the *Herald* carried three pieces related to a report on the NHS Scotland complaints system. The main story relates that a third of patients experience difficulties with the NHS in Scotland but that relatively few complain. In a comment piece Jean Turner, Chief Executive of the Scotland Patients Association, calls for the use of anonymous feedback forms in NHS Scotland. An editorial calls for an overhaul of the system: <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2522438.0>. One third of patients encounter problems with NHS.php

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/health/display.var.2522428.0>. Patients fear being labelled difficult.php

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2522365.0>. Patients need a voice.php

The *Scotsman* carried a comment piece by Frank Maguire of Thompsons Solicitors on 28 July arguing against a system of no-fault compensation for patients who have been harmed during the course of NHS treatment, as proposed by the Scottish Government. Mr Maguire argues that no-fault compensation would allow those responsible for negligence to escape justice and result in low compensation payments:

<http://news.scotsman.com/health/avoiding--fault-in-compensation.5497744.jp>

## Headlines:

### GMC

The Huddersfield Daily Examiner

Delivery date : 27/07/2009

Number of words : 76

Baroness in nursing care fact-finding visit to uni

The human and health sciences department at Huddersfield University received a visit from a life peer. Baroness Audrey Emerton has been at the forefront of developing nursing care in the NHS for many years. She was vice-president of the Royal College of Nursing, chairman of the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting and a lay member of the General Medical Council.

### Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 29/07/2009

Number of words : 677

Doctor struck off after helping friend to die says he is ready to be 'martyr'

A former doctor has challenged the police to arrest him after disclosing that he paid for another man to end his life at a Swiss clinic. **Code A** 78, a campaigner for the legalisation of assisted suicide, said that he was ready to go to prison after writing a cheque for £1,500 towards the cost of helping the 58-year-old Raymond Cutkelvin to end his life at the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland. A poll for The Times last weekend showed that almost three quarters of people want doctors to be allowed to help terminally ill patients to end their lives. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) also ended its five-year active opposition to assisted suicide, instead adopting a neutral stance after a consultation with its members.

### GMC

Lancashire Evening Post

Delivery date : 27/07/2009

Number of words : 294

'Betrayal' doctor says sorry over Viagra joke

A suspended doctor has apologised to the patients whose privacy he breached by joking about their their sexual problems in a letter and e-mail. Longton GP Peter Robinson will begin his six-month suspension on August 20 after being found guilty of professional misconduct by the General Medical Council last week. Dr Robinson, who has

worked as a GP for more than 30 years, sent a letter to a friend discussing a patient's impotence and revealed another was using Viagra in an e-mail to his girlfriend between July 2005 and December 2006.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 29/07/2009

Number of words : 121

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Today's birthdays list including Lord Kilpatrick of Kincaig, former President of the General Medical Council

GMC

The Times

Delivery date : 29/07/2009

Number of words : 358

'We are expected to prolong life, but it is not an obligation'

A comment on current regulations regarding assisted suicide.

## 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