

Code A

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From: Code A
 Sent: 21 August 2009 09:56
 To: Press Cuttings
 Subject: Press cuttings - Friday 21 August

Press Cuttings Summary

Friday 21 August 2009

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

The Daily Telegraph, *Scottish Daily Express*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Guardian* report on the four Cardiff University medical students who were allowed to practise as doctors after wrongly being told they had passed their exams. The *Daily Telegraph* article says that the GMC has asked the University to investigate the incident and quotes a GMC spokesperson: "We will remain in close contact with Cardiff Medical School until the situation is resolved". *The Scotsman* and the *Daily Mirror* also report the story but do not mention the GMC.

<http://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/121693/Failed-medical-students-worked-as-hospital-doctors>

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/Investigation-launched-into-how-failed.5574294.jp>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/aug/20/junior-doctors-suspended-exam-error>

The Daily Mail, *Daily Telegraph*, *Metro* and *Guardian* all report on the hearing of Dr Jane Barton. The hearing has now been adjourned to allow evidence to be heard, in order to decide whether the doctor is guilty of serious professional misconduct.

The *Cambridge News* reports on the fitness to practise hearing of Dr Shahid Tanvir. The doctor has been erased.

The Sentinel reports on the fitness to practise hearing of Code A. The case is ongoing.

The Sentinel (online) also runs a brief story on the role of the GMC and what may happen to a doctor who faces a fitness to practise hearing.

<http://www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk/news/Keeping-check-patient-safety/article-1267279-detail/article.html>

Further coverage of the GMC in *The Sentinel* relates to a young girl who was diagnosed with depression by her GP but was actually suffering from a brain tumour. The article notes that 'the family has now written to the General Medical Council to ask them to investigate'.

<http://www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk/news/Girl-s-tumour-described-depression-doctor/article-1267245-detail/article.html>

Wales Online reports on a man who had to wait years for a triple heart bypass when in fact he required more serious treatment. The article mentions that the GMC is investigating Dr Khalifa Gieibly.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/south-wales-news/rhymney-valley/2009/08/20/gmc-probes-man-s-heart-op-treatment-91466-24481070/>

Broadcast Mentions

There are a number of local broadcast mentions of the Jane Barton hearing.

BBC Wales and *ITV Wales* both mention the GMC in relation to the four medical students from Cardiff University who were allowed to practise as doctors after wrongly being told they had passed their exams.

Times Letters page

There are no letters to note.

Other News

The *FT* Reports that the number of swine flu cases in England continues to decline. Sir Liam Donaldson, the government's Chief Medical Officer made the announcement yesterday.

The Care Quality Commission has published a list of hospitals which have caused high safety alerts after unusually high numbers of patients died. (*The Times*)

Headlines:

Adhoc report Extracted from MorethanNews.com

Folder : Today's cuttings

Delivery date : 21/08/2009 to : 21/08/2009

Sector : All

Keywords :

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 152

Student doctors who failed exams were allowed to work

A university has been ordered by the General Medical Council to investigate how four medical students were allowed to practise as doctors after wrongly being told they had passed all their final exams.

Miscellaneous

Financial Times

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 184

Swine flu cases drop in England

The number of cases of swine flu in England continues to decline, Sir Liam Donaldson, the government's chief medical officer, said yesterday. Cases fell to an estimated 11,000 in England last week, well below the peak of 110,000 in a week at the end of July.

NHS issues

The Times

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 315

Hospitals that triggered death alerts are named

A list of hospitals that have sparked safety alerts after unusually high numbers of patients died has been published by the NHS regulator.

GMC

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 441

GP who gave fatal drug cocktails to 12 patients

A doctor who gave lethal cocktails of painkillers to 12 elderly hospital patients could be struck off after she was found guilty yesterday by the General Medical Council.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 287

Doctor faces ban over deaths of 12 patients

A doctor faces being struck off after prescribing overdoses of painkillers to 12 elderly patients who died in her care. A General Medical Council hearing found that evidence against Dr Jane Barton would be enough to result in her being found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

GMC

Cambridge News

Delivery date : 15/08/2009

Number of words : 386

Doctor struck off for trying to bed patient

A doctor who bombarded a patient with gifts and gave her cash to buy drugs has been struck off by the General Medical Council.

Doctors

Daily Mirror

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 87

Exams error 'docs' on job

Four junior doctors who were given NHS jobs despite failing their exams have now been suspended.

GMC

The Sentinel

Delivery date : 19/08/2009

Number of words : 153

Public barred in drug case

The General Medical Council, which is bringing the case against anaesthetist [Code A] went into private session before any evidence was heard by its Fitness to Practise panel sitting in Manchester.

GMC

Metro

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 213

'Dangerous' doctor still fine to work

The families of 12 patients who died in the 1990s face another delay to find out if the doctor who prescribed them large doses of powerful painkillers will be struck off. The General Medical Council yesterday said there was enough evidence to support a finding of serious misconduct against Dr Jane Barton - but it would wait until next year to decide when to hold a hearing.

Doctors

The Scotsman

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 59

Inquiry ordered over unqualified doctors

CARDIFF Medical School has been ordered to investigate how four students were wrongly told they had passed all their final exams, allowing them to work as doctors.

GMC

The Guardian

Delivery date : 21/08/2009

Number of words : 92

Doctor may be struck off over high drug doses

A doctor who prescribed "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs to elderly patients moved a step closer to being struck off yesterday.

Code A

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11/27/2015

Doctor faces being struck off over painkiller prescriptions - Telegraph

Doctor faces being struck off over painkiller prescriptions

A doctor faces being struck off after prescribing overdoses of powerful painkillers to 12 elderly patients who died in her care.



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By Jon Swaine

5:40PM BST 20 Aug 2009

A General Medical Council hearing found that evidence against Dr Jane Barton "would not be insufficient" to see her found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Dr Barton, 37, admitted a string of allegations about her treatment of the patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Hampshire, between 1996 and 1999.

She was investigated during three separate police inquiries examining a total of 92 deaths at the hospital. No criminal charges were brought.

Dr Barton gave "anticipatory" prescriptions, which allowed nurses to give medication when necessary, the hearing heard. In several cases, the dosage range was too wide and the lowest doses were too high.

This "created a situation whereby drugs could be administered which were excessive to the patients' needs", the panel said.

One patient, Leslie Pittock, 82, was admitted on January 5, 1996, with depression and mobility problems. He was given six times the recommended dose of midazolam. This "shortened his life" and he died on January 24, the hearing was told.

Eva Page, 87, was admitted on February 27, 1998 with a suspected cancerous tumour in her chest. She was prescribed diamorphine and midazolam as well as pain relief via a patch on the skin and was dead 11 hours later.

The panel ruled that the dose range had been too wide and that Dr Barton's actions were "potentially hazardous, inappropriate and not in the best interests of the patient".

Enid Spurgeon, 92, was given four times the recommended dose of opiates despite surgeons recording that she was allergic. She was admitted on March 26, 1999 and died on April 12.

Geoffrey Packman, 67, showed no signs of fatal illness until he entered Barton's ward on August 23, 1999. His wife Betty was 'shocked' when Barton told her he would die. He died three days later.

Dr Barton also told 81-year-old Alice Wilkie, another patient, "it won't be long now" before going on to prescribe her a large dose of painkillers, the hearing was told. The patient was dead within 24 hours of being given powerful opiates she had never had before.

The son of one of the patients demanded that Dr Barton be struck off and a fresh police inquiry started.

Iain Wilson's father Robert, 74, died after being given drugs following his admission to the hospital in October 1998 with a broken shoulder.

The son said outside the hearing: "She's got to be struck off. There are no ifs or buts, the proof was there, the panel saw the proof. My dad had a broken shoulder. You don't die of a broken shoulder unless you're under the care of Dr Barton."

Tom Kark for the GMC said drugs were administered at the hospital to "keep patients quiet". He said: "None of the patients were appropriately prescribed opiates by Dr Barton.

"There was we say a series of failures which led to patients being overmedicated and unnecessarily anaesthetised.

"When patients became agitated they were then administered increasing quantities of diamorphine and midazolam until they were agitated no more."

The doctor admitted that the dosage she prescribed for 11 of the 12 patients was "potentially hazardous", the dose range was too wide and that this created a situation where excessive amounts of drugs could be administered.

She also admitted she failed to keep clear, accurate and contemporaneous notes and that these omissions were inappropriate and not in the best interests of the patients.

Barton still works at the Forton Medical Centre, Gosport. She is subject to a temporary ban on prescribing the painkiller diamorphine.

Andrew Reid, the GMC panel chairman, told Dr Barton: "The panel has made multiple findings that your conduct has been inappropriate, potentially hazardous and/or not in the best interests of your patients.

11/27/2015

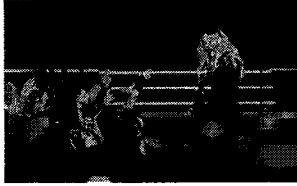
Doctor faces being struck off over painkiller prescriptions - Telegraph

"It has concluded that the facts found proved (both admitted and otherwise) would not be insufficient to support a finding of serious professional misconduct."

The panel found allegations that Dr Barton failed to assess patients appropriately before prescribing opiates were not proved.

Mr Reid said that the hearing would be adjourned to allow evidence to be heard in order to decide whether Dr Barton was guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Ticketbis's fascinating story of connection



Ander Michelena, Ticketbis founder, explains how a chance meeting can lead to a thriving business

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