

**Code A**

46924505

**From:** Code A  
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**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 16 Jun 09

**Importance:** High

## Press Cuttings Summary

Tuesday 16 June 2009

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### Direct Mentions

#### Print Mentions

*BMJ* (13 June 2009)

- In an article placed by the press office, the journal mentions that the November date for the introduction of the licences to practise has been announced.
- The journal also covers the fitness to practise hearing of Dr Jane Barton.

There is a BBC Online (Derbyshire) piece about the Dr Barton hearing, focusing on the requests of one of Dr Barton's patient's being refused:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8100829.stm>

*The Daily Telegraph* covers the fitness to practise hearing of Drs Michael Ormiston and Wasfy Yanny. The doctors are charged with causing a patient's death after gas was accidentally pumped into their stomach during an operation.

The Management in Practice website mentions that [Code A] has been erased from the register for sexually assaulting female patients:

<http://www.managementinpractice.com/default.asp?title=Breast-touchingdoctorstruckoffthemedicalregister&page=article.display&article.id=17183>

#### Broadcast Mentions

BBC One Southampton and BBC Radio Solent continue to cover the fitness to practise hearing of Dr Jane Barton.

A caller to BBC Radio Merseyside's 'Roger Philips' show yesterday expressed his anger at statements he had heard about the MMR vaccine and that it was safe. The presenter noted that the claims made by [Code A] have been "rubbished" and that he is facing a GMC hearing.

#### Times Letters page and GMC published responses

There are no letters today.

#### Other News

There are several stories about the 'swine flu' pandemic. National and regional press report on the death of the premature baby, the child of the first victim to die of the virus. The baby did not have 'swine flu' himself. *Metro* also reports on the BMA's claims that some GPs may refuse to work if the pandemic worsens as they may not have adequate insurance to cover them if they die whilst offering treatment to patients.

A man who travelled with his terminally ill partner to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland to help him die speaks out about the need to change the law around assisted suicide (*Evening Standard*).

An article in *The Scotsman* discusses the ethical pros and cons of pharmaceutical industry sponsored events and conferences alerting doctors about new drugs and treatments.

#### Headlines:

#### Doctors

Metro

Delivery date : 16/06/2009

Number of words : 379

Swine flu fear GPs 'to strike'

Doctors could refuse to work if swine flu spreads throughout Britain because they fear they may not be insured if they put their lives at risk. Some GPs say they will try to avoid dealing directly with patients so they do not catch the virus, according to the British Medical Association.

#### Miscellaneous

The Times

Delivery date : 16/06/2009

Number of words : 576

Two-week-old baby dies a day after swine flu kills his mother

The partner of the first person in the UK to die of swine flu suffered a second loss last night when his premature son died in hospital. William McCann said Jack, aged 14 days, died after a "brave fight" at the special-care baby unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, Renfrewshire. His partner, Jacqueline Fleming, 38, died at the same hospital on Sunday.

#### GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 13/06/2009

Number of words : 326

GP admits prescribing painkillers to patients in "too wide a range"

A GP admitted prescribing "potentially hazardous" doses of painkilling drugs to elderly patients on the first day of a fitness to practise hearing at the General Medical Council.

#### End of Life

Evening Standard

Delivery date : 15/06/2009

Number of words : 1461

'What I've done is illegal, but I did it for Raymond'

Alan Cutkelvin Rees, the partner of Raymond Cutkelvin, who ended his fight against pancreatic cancer through assisted suicide in Switzerland, has spoken out to change law on assisted suicide.

#### GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 13/06/2009

Number of words : 132

All doctors working in the UK will need a licence in November

All doctors will need a licence to practise medicine in the United Kingdom from November 16, the General Medical Council announced this week.

#### GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 16/06/2009

Number of words : 430

Woman died trying to cure her sweating

An amateur sportswoman died after pioneering surgery to cure her heavy sweating went wrong, the General Medical Council (GMC) has heard.

## Doctors

The Scotsman

Delivery date : 16/06/2009

Number of words : 1137

Is there such a thing as a free lunch?

AMEETING at Gleneagles to recruit doctors to sign up patients for a drug trial - a necessary sweetener in the interest of public health, or an unethical practice?

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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

BMJ

HSJ


The Lancet

The Press Cuttings Website



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## Relatives asked for drugs to stop

**An elderly patient's family asked for his drugs to be stopped so they could hear his final wishes, but had their request refused, a panel has heard.**

The General Medical Council heard a nurse at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) refused the request made by the step-son of patient Brian Cunningham.

The hearing follows an inquest into 10 deaths at the hospital which found drugs were a factor in five cases.

Dr Jane Barton is accused of serious professional misconduct.

The charge relates to the treatment of 12 patients at the hospital in Hampshire in the 1990s.

### 'Vicar appeared'

On Monday, the GMC fitness to practise panel heard Mr Cunningham, 79, who had been admitted to GWMH in 1998 with serious bed sores, was being given diamorphine and was unconscious.

His step-son, Charles Farthing, said that he had spoken to a nurse and asked for the syringe driver that was administering the diamorphine to be removed but she refused.

Mr Farthing said: "I wanted to ask my step-father if he had any last wishes and also if he knew what was happening to him.

"If I had been able to ask him that I would have walked away at that time."

He said he later met Dr Barton and accused her of murdering him, at which point the hospital vicar appeared and spoke to him about life and death, the GMC panel heard.

Mr Farthing later asked for a post-mortem examination on his step-father - but said that no toxicology tests were done.

Alan Jenkins, representing Dr Barton, asked Mr Farthing: "You suggested that this was a conspiracy involving doctors, nurses and a corrupt coroner's office, did you think the vicar was in on it, too?"

Mr Farthing replied: "I said that, yes. I am not sure about the vicar, she may have been involved."

### No prosecutions

In April, a jury inquest at Portsmouth Coroner's Court decided that in the cases of GWMH patients Robert Wilson, 74, Geoffrey Packman, 66, and Elsie Devine, 88, the use of painkillers had been inappropriate for their condition.

Mr Cunningham, 79, and Elsie Lavender, 83, were prescribed medication appropriate for their condition but in doses which contributed to their deaths, jurors found.

Police have carried out investigations into the treatment of 92 patients at the hospital since 1998, although no prosecutions have ever been brought.

The hearing previously heard how Dr Barton wrote prescriptions for drugs, including diamorphine, which allowed nursing staff to massively increase the dosage if they saw fit.

She has already admitted the dose range specified for 10 patients was too wide.

The hearing is expected to last 11 weeks.



The patients died at the hospital between 1996 and 1999

Fears of 'culture of euthanasia'

Unlawful killing claim sparked probe



**BBC Hampshire**  
Information and features on the BBC Hampshire website

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20 Apr 09 | Hampshire

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### RELATED INTERNET LINKS

General Medical Council

Action Against Medical Accidents

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