

Code A

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From: Code A
 Sent: 20 August 2009 10:26
 To: Press Cuttings
 Subject: Press Cuttings - 20 Aug 09

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 Observer.pdf



Western Mail
 Cardiff Medical ...

Press Cuttings Summary

Thursday 20 August 2009

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

BMA News (15 August 2009)

- There is an update about how the BMA is preparing for a further flu pandemic, noting that an area of the BMA's website has been dedicated to information about this, including links to information from agencies such as the GMC.
- A second article on the same subject looks at how the NHS will cope with a further pandemic situation. The article mentions that the GMC has published guidance for doctors "...working outside their usual speciality".
- A letter criticises some PCT medical directors for introducing their own IT systems and blaming resulting failures on the doctors who use such systems and asks if they are supposed to ignore GMC fitness to practise panels.
- A letter from a retired doctor states that, unless the GMC provides such doctor's with a licence to practise during a possible pandemic situation, they will "...make a blunder of monumental proportions". The response from the BMA notes that the GMC will be able to re-register retired doctors (who have been retired for less than two years) within 48 hours if an emergency situation is announced by the health secretary.

There are regional and local mentions of the following fitness to practise hearings:

Code A

Code A

- Alleged misappropriation of drugs; associated health allegations (hearing is ongoing)
 kept salary incorrectly paid after he had left post. (erased)

BBC Online reports how four junior hospital doctors have been suspended after being wrongly told they had passed all their final exams at Cardiff School of Medicine. The article notes that the General Medical Council has been kept fully informed. The story is also mentioned in *The Western Mail* (see attached PDF).

<http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8210629.stm>

The *Whitehaven News* and *News and Star* report on the forthcoming fitness to practise case of Code A after it is alleged that he gave four patients excessive overdoses.

http://www.whitehaven-news.co.uk/news/manslaughter_doctor_faces_dose_inquiry_1_600392

http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/cumbrian_doctor_who_killed_grandmother_facing_probe_in_other_cases_1_599_863?referrerPath=home

There is further coverage of the Rugby Union match fixing story in *The Daily Telegraph* who report that the GMC will not confirm or deny if there is an investigation into the practise of Code A

The *Mourne Observer* reports on the case of Dr Liam Farrell, who intends to plead guilty in court to separate charges of unlawfully possessing class A substances.

The articles note the doctor's current registration status with the GMC. Please see attached PDF for the full article.

An article celebrating iconic historical figures from Bristol notes that the first female doctor in the UK and the United States, Elizabeth Blackwell, was born in the city. The article adds that Blackwell was the first woman registered with the GMC. (*Evening Post*).

Broadcast Mentions

BBC Radio Gloucester's round-up of the newspapers yesterday morning mentions that one columnist called for the GMC to investigate the actions of [Code A] in relation to the 'Bloodgate' Rugby Union match cheating story.

BBC Radio Solent mentioned in today's news that a decision is expected for Dr Jane Barton, who is currently facing a fitness to practise panel (the findings of fact are expected sometime today).

Times Letters page

There are no letters today.

Other News

There are reports in some of the national newspapers that an NHS doctor may have absconded with his two sons to his home country Syria. The boys' mother, [Code A] is divorced from the father, [Code A] and has not seen them since they visited his home in December (*Daily Telegraph*).

Up to 1,000 women have been recalled after a review of cervical smear tests carried out at the Gildersome Health centre in Leeds showed faulty screening methods (*Daily Express*).

There are reports that salaried GPs (employed by GPs who own practices) are asking the Medical Practitioners Union to form a breakaway trade union for the profession, as they accuse the BMA of "partisanship" around the issue of GPs pay. They claim that whilst GPs salaries have increased exponentially since the introduction of the GP contract in 2003, salaried GPs pay has increased only slightly in comparison (*Daily Mail*).

Headlines:

Miscellaneous

Daily Express

Delivery date : 20/08/2009

Number of words : 279

Faulty smear tests spark mass recall

Almost 1,000 women are getting repeat cervical smear tests because of faulty screening carried out more than 20 years ago.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 20/08/2009

Number of words : 657

GP revolt

Pulse magazine, which is aimed at health professionals, has revealed GP plans to break away from the British Medical Association, which the rebels accuse of partisanship. They are angry at a contract negotiated in 2003 which led to enormous pay rises for family GPs who own practices, but little for the junior doctors they employ. The National Association of Sessional GPs, which represents the 40 per cent of family doctors who do not own a practice, has accused the BMA of concentrating on increasing pay for practice owners at the expense of the GPs that they employ.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 15/08/2009

Number of words : 370

Flu advice on tap

Focus on how doctors are dealing with being put at the forefront of the swine flu pandemic. Mention of how the GMC,

among others, can provide necessary information for GPs on the subject.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 15/08/2009

Number of words : 750

Pandemic — how the NHS will cope

Feature on how the NHS is coping with the swine flu pandemic. Mention of the GMC as being a source for guidance to doctors working outside their usual speciality.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 15/08/2009

Number of words : 120

UK justice under threat

Reader's correspondence discussing PCT medical directors. Mention of the GMC.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 15/08/2009

Number of words : 129

All hands on deck for H1N1

Reader's correspondence suggesting that the GMC would be making a mistake if it does not issue retired doctors with licences to practice in November.

GMC

Evening Post

Delivery date : 18/08/2009

Number of words : 860

That's why it's great Bristol

Bristol has always been a hotbed of invention and innovation, according to writer Steve Pope, who has just published a book about Britain's contributions to the world. Notes the first woman to be added to the GMC, Elizabeth Blackwell.

GMC

Sunderland Echo

Delivery date : 14/08/2009

Number of words : 220

Doctor struck off after wages blunder

A Wearside doctor who went on a gambling spree with almost £50,000 in taxpayers' cash after being paid a year's salary by mistake has been struck off. [Code A] left his job in July 2005, but City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust continued to pay his £64,000-a-year salary into his bank account for 12 months. The medic told a General Medical Council hearing that he spotted the error in October 2005, but had already spent some of the money

GMC

Sunderland Echo

Delivery date : 12/08/2009

Number of words : 457

Doctor gambled away NHS cash

A Wearside doctor went on a gambling spree with almost £50,000 in taxpayers' cash after being paid a year's salary by mistake. [Code A] left his job in July 2005, but health chiefs continued to pay his £64,000-a-year salary for 12 months. Yesterday, the medic told a General Medical Council hearing that he spotted the error in October 2005, but had already spent some of the money.

Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 20/08/2009

Number of words : 586

Father fled to Syria with our two sons, says tearful motherA doctor abducted his two children and flew with them to his native Syria, their mother claimed yesterday. **Code A****Code A** has not seen her sons Sami, eight, and Rami Odeh, four, since they paid a weekend visit to their father, **Code A** at his home last December.**GMC**

The Sentinel

Delivery date : 18/08/2009

Number of words : 382

Surgery doctor hid powerful sedatives

An anaesthetist has admitted taking small containers of a powerful sedative reserved for patients undergoing surgery. The General Medical Council (GMC) alleged that Dr Chandavarkar's fitness to practice as a doctor was impaired by misconduct and his adverse s or mental health

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 20/08/2009

Number of words : 548

Richards: Williams asked for cut

Disgraced former Harlequins director of rugby Dean Richards last night claimed that wing Tom Williams asked that his mouth be cut in order to try to cover up the fake-blood scandal.

Web links:**National Newspapers:**The TimesThe IndependentThe GuardianThe Daily TelegraphThe Daily MailThe Daily MirrorThe Daily ExpressThe SunThe Financial Times**Online Media:**The BBCChannel 4Sky**Other Regular Newspapers:**The ScotsmanThe HeraldThe Press & JournalThe Manchester Evening NewsIrish NewsBelfast TelegraphNews LetterSouth Wales EchoSouth Wales Evening PostWestern Mail**Medical Press:**PulseBMJHSJThe Lancet**The Press Cuttings Website**