

Code A

46924544

From: Code A
Sent: 21 January 2010 09:34
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 21 Jan 10

Press Cuttings Summary

Thursday 21 January 2010

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

The Daily Telegraph reports on the issue of EU-trained doctors and the GMC's call for their skills and language proficiency to be more rigorously checked. The article highlights Lord Patel's review into doctors' education and training, which proposes a requirement for those on the GP register to have undergone revalidation.

Lord Patel's report into the future of medical education and training also receives online mentions. They summarise his main recommendations and link the story to the case of Code A

<http://www.healthcarerepublic.com/news/978327/EU-law-foreign-doctors-putting-patients-risk-says-report/>
<http://www.managementinpractice.com/default.asp?title=CallforallEUdoctorstoreceiveequivalenttraining&page=article.display&article.id=20093>
<http://www.nursingtimes.net/whats-new-in-nursing/primary-care/variations-in-gp-training-come-under-scrutiny/5010609.article>

In light of the weekend's news that the late Mo Mowlam's doctor revealed details about her cancer diagnosis and treatment, the Healthcare Republic website mentions that the GMC is advising doctors on issues of confidentiality:

<http://www.healthcarerepublic.com/news/978297/GMC-advice-confidentiality-Mo-Mowlam-revelation/>

The following fitness to practise hearings are mentioned:

Dr Jane Barton – hearing is ongoing. There are also several online mentions:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8470847.stm>

Dr Nicholas Spicer - suspended for 6 months.
<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/latest-west-midlands-news/GP-cleared-over-39abhorrent39-child.5996951.jp>

Code A – hearing is ongoing

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Dr David Hickson – hearing is ongoing
<http://www.thisishullandeastriding.co.uk/news/Bridlington-doctor-admits-affair-married-patient/article-1731629-detail/article.html>
<http://www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk/news/Breaking-News-Bridlington-Doctor-faces.5998617.jp>

Dr Mustafa Hussain Ansari.
<http://www.suttonguardian.co.uk/news/4862040.Doctor-who-refused-patient-a-home-visit-is-cleared-of-misconduct/>

Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions to note.

Letters pages

There is a further letter in *The Times* about whether GPs should provide out of hours care. The author, now a retired GP, is fearful that doctors are not used to the principle of continuity of care. The full letter can be read at:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article6995524.ece>

Other News

The Royal College of Surgeons has branded the current state of gastric band healthcare as "inconsistent and unethical" ahead of a conference later today on this subject. Reports state that many overweight patients are effectively asked to eat more to qualify for the surgery, increasing the risk of associated health problems (*The Times*). This story also receives widespread broadcast coverage.

The Times also reports that the number of compensation claims for complications following private gastric band surgery has increased over the past two years.

Headlines:

GMC

Nottingham Evening Post

Delivery date : 19/01/2010

Number of words : 115

German doctor's fitness hearing

A German doctor who worked in Nottingham could be kicked out of his profession because of his alleged poor performance. Notes the General Medical Council.

Colleges & Regulators

The Times

Delivery date : 21/01/2010

Number of words : 785

Massive rise in legal claims for botched obesity surgery

The number of patients taking legal action after paying for weight loss surgery has risen dramatically over the past two years, according to medical negligence figures seen by *The Times*. According to the Royal College of Surgeons, about one million Britons have a body mass index of more than 40 - the criteria for an initial assessment for gastric surgery on the NHS. About 25 per cent of these people want an operation, but only 4,300 NHS weight-loss operations were carried out last year.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 21/01/2010

Number of words : 487

Patients at risk' from foreign doctors

Patients are not being properly protected from poor foreign doctors, the General Medical Council has warned. The council called for tighter rules on doctors brought in from abroad. European rules mean that medical qualifications from within the EU must be recognised even if they are not up to British standards. The GMC is considering proposals in a wider review of the regulation of doctors' education and training, chaired by Lord Patel. It was proposed that the general medical register should hold more information than it does to show if doctors have specialist qualifications.

GMC

Derby Evening Telegraph

Delivery date : 19/01/2010

Number of words : 567

Doctor is accused of 'series of errors'

A Home Office pathologist, who covered cases in Derbyshire, is alleged to have made a series of errors in postmortem examinations. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Metro
 Delivery date : 21/01/2010
 Number of words : 93
Doctor . facing the sack
 A doctor who prescribed 'potentially hazardous' levels of drugs to elderly patients should be struck off, the General Medical Council has heard.

Colleges & Regulators

The Times
 Delivery date : 21/01/2010
 Number of words : 555
Hospitals 'encourage the overweight to eat more to get operation'
 Patients requiring life-saving weight loss surgery are being refused treatment because of "inconsistent and unethical" hospital policies, leading surgeons warn today. Funding constraints mean patients are denied gastric band operations despite meeting NHS guidelines - with some in effect encouraged to eat more to help prioritise their cause. The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), which is hosting a conference on bariatric surgery today, described gastric band healthcare as "inconsistent, unethical and completely dependent on geographical location."

GMC

Nottingham Evening Post
 Delivery date : 19/01/2010
 Number of words : 398
'Series of errors' by pathologist
 A Home Office pathologist has been accused of making a series of errors in examinations on people who died in Nottingham and across the Midlands. Notes the General Medical Council.

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
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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
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The Lancet

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Gosport doctor Jane Barton 'should be struck off'

A doctor who prescribed "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs to elderly patients should be struck off, a General Medical Council panel heard.

Dr Jane Barton is accused of a series of failings in her treatment of 12 patients at Hampshire's Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s.

The GMC panel has already made a string of findings against Dr Barton over her treatment of the patients.

It is now deciding if she is guilty of serious professional misconduct.

The hearing follows an inquest into 10 patients' deaths which found drugs to be a factor in five cases.

Tom Kark, counsel for the GMC, said many of Dr Barton's failings were "positively harmful" to her patients' welfare.

'Almost no insight'

"The failures demonstrated in this case are so serious that, despite the passage of time, the only sanction that will ensure the protection of the public and public confidence in the profession is one of erasure," he said.

Mr Kark submitted that Dr Barton had demonstrated "almost no insight" into her failings and pointed out that she was warned in 1991 that she needed to change her practice.

He referred to her earlier evidence to the hearing that "with the benefit of hindsight she would not have done anything different".

Mr Kark conceded that there were "serious management failings" at the hospital and that Dr Barton should have received better support and guidance from managers and senior doctors.

Dr Barton, who qualified in 1972, was a clinical assistant on the hospital's Dryad and Daedalus wards at the time of the deaths of the 12 patients.

She admitted a series of allegations about dose levels of painkillers and opiates that could have sedative effects.

Her practice of "anticipatory" prescribing allowed nurses to administer the medication where necessary, the hearing in central London was told.

But the panel found last August that in a number of cases with prescriptions she had written in anticipation of patients needing strong pain relief, the dose range was too wide and lowest doses too high.

Her actions were "inappropriate, potentially hazardous and not in the best interests of the patient", according to the findings.

Timothy Langdale QC, for Dr Barton, argued that she was a "good, experienced and conscientious" doctor and should not be struck off.

He told the panel her working methods were known to all the consultants in the hospital and she "properly" felt she was acting with their approval and sanction.

The 12 patients were: Robert Wilson, 74, Eva Page, 87, Alice Wilkie, 81, Gladys Richards, 91, Leslie Pittock, 82, Elsie Lavender, 83, Ruby



Dr Jane Barton was told some of her conduct was inappropriate



BBC Hampshire
Information and features on the BBC Hampshire website

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- General Medical Council
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BBC News - Gosport doctor Jane Barton 'should be struck off'

Lake, 84, Enid Spurgeon, 92, Geoffrey Packman, 67, Elsie Devine, 88, Arthur Cunningham, 79, and Jean Stevens, 73.

The hearing continues.

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