

Code A

46924614

From: Code A
Sent: 11 June 2009 10:14
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 11 June 2009

Press Cuttings Summary

Thursday 11 June 2009

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

GP (12 Jun 09)

- The magazine interviews GMC Chair Peter Rubin and asks him about his career and about the implementation of revalidation.
- There is an article about licensing – the magazine express concern that there will be no expiry date on them. GMC Chair Peter Rubin is quoted as stressing the need “to ensure we don’t start until we’re ready”.

Pulse (10 June 09)

- There is an article about the GMC’s fitness to practise statistics. The article focuses on the increase in the number of cases referred by GMC case examiners in one year (359 for 2008, 196 in 2007), but adds that the number of cases actually reaching a fitness to practise hearing did not rise much. The GMC states that there is no evidence to show this is linked to the change to the civil standard of proof. The press office will respond to the misleading elements in the article.

The Herald mentions that a Dr Fayeze El-Deeb has been suspended by the GMC, pending an investigation into his conduct. According to the article, he asked a patient to email him photos of her breasts and conducted an examination of her in a supermarket’s baby-changing room.

The *Coventry Telegraph* reports on the fitness to practise hearing of [Code A] and the panel finding that his practise had been “impaired”.

There are further regional mentions of the Dr Jane Barton fitness to practise hearing, plus mentions in the *Daily Mail* online and the BBC’s website, articles that can be read at the following links:

<http://www.magentanews.com/cache.asp?n=6313559>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1192149/It-wont-long-Chilling-words-doctor-killed-12-pensioners-huge-overdose.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8093572.stm>

A consumer website offers the ‘low down’ on Botox and mentions that, when looking for a doctor who administers the injections, one should check they are registered with the GMC:

<http://www.handbag.com/beauty/Cosmetic-surgery-botox-advice-facts/v1>

Broadcast Mentions

To listen to Lady Christine Eames’ interview on BBC Radio Foyle yesterday about the End of Life Care consultation, organised by the press office, please click on the following link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00i97sk>

(The interview is 11mins and 5 seconds into the programme).

Times Letters page

The Director of the Oregon Hospice Association corrects an earlier letter on a number of points about palliative care within the state. Oregon passed the 'Death With Dignity' Act, which allows terminally-ill Oregonians to end their lives through the voluntary self-administration of lethal medications, expressly prescribed by a physician for that purpose, 12 years ago.

Other News

The Sun's Health Editor looks at what made her suspicious about *Panorama's* claims about fertility expert Dr Mohamed Taranissi. The BBC has been ordered to pay Dr Taranissi £1million in damages after they claimed he offered women "unnecessary treatment".

The Times notes that an inquiry from the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death (NCEPOD) has found thousands of British patients may be dying from kidney failure missed by hospital doctors. The findings indicated a lack of awareness among doctors of the risks of renal failure, a poor understanding of how the condition progressed and inadequate knowledge of how to manage it. The inquiry recommended that medical training should promote greater awareness of the condition.

Headlines:

GMC

Belfast Telegraph Morning

Delivery date : 10/06/2009

Number of words : 370

Caring for the terminally ill: your views sought by medical council

The General Medical Council is today asking people across Northern Ireland for their views on new draft guidelines for the care of terminally ill patients. The call comes as the GMC, which regulates more than 6,000 doctors in Northern Ireland, hosts two events in Northern Ireland today to discuss issues arising out of the guidelines for doctors treating end-of-life patients.

End of Life

The Times

Delivery date : 11/06/2009

Number of words : 208

Death with dignity

Sir, Clare Mullarkey (letter, June 9) misunderstands the nature of care in Oregon. Hospice and palliative care has not "diminished" since Oregon's Death With Dignity Act came into effect 12 years ago.

GMC

Coventry Telegraph

Delivery date : 10/06/2009

Number of words : 96

GP found guilty after bra request

A doctor who asked a female patient with a sore throat to take off her top and bra has been found guilty of misconduct. A General Medical Council Fitness to Practise Panel found that he had failed to explain to patients why the intrusive examinations were necessary.

GMC

Pulse

Delivery date : 10/06/2009

Number of words : 439

GMC cases rise after civil standard switch

The number of doctors referred by GMC case examiners to fitness-to-practise hearings increased dramatically last year - prompting warnings that the switch to the civil standard of proof may be putting GPs at greater risk of sanction.

Doctors

The Sun

Delivery date : 11/06/2009

Number of words : 299

SHAME ON PANORAMA FOR SENSELESS SLUR ON TOP DOC

Panorama wrongly accused Britain's top fertility doc Mohamed Taranissi of offering "unnecessary treatment" - and now the BBC faces a £1million legal bill. Here, EMMA MORTON, Health and Science Editor, examines how the TV programme made such a grave error.

GMC

The Herald

Delivery date : 11/06/2009

Number of words : 539

Surgeon asked a patient to 'e-mail photos of her breasts'

A PLASTIC surgeon faces disciplinary action by the General Medical Council (GMC) after being accused of asking a patient to e-mail him photographs of her breasts and examining her in a supermarket's baby-changing room.

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The Times

The Independent

The Guardian

The Daily Telegraph

The Daily Mail

The Daily Mirror

The Daily Express

The Sun

The Financial Times

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'It won't be long now': Chilling words of doctor who 'killed 12 pensioners by huge overdose'

UPDATED: 00:44, 11 June 2009

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A doctor accused of misconduct over the deaths of 12 patients told a pensioner 'it won't be long now' after giving her a large dose of painkillers, a hearing was told today.

Dr Jane Barton's patient Alice Wilkie, 81, was admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire for rehabilitation but within two weeks she was dead.

Another pensioner Gladys Richards, 91, was given triple the recommended dose of morphine and left unconscious without food or water before she too died.

Relatives of the deceased patients today gave emotional evidence at the hearing for Dr Barton who faces 15 charges including excessive over-prescription of painkillers and sedatives.

Mrs Wilkie's daughter Marilyn Jackson said she was 'shocked' to find her mother in a comatose state just a few days after her admission in August 1998.

She told the hearing: 'When I first went to see her, for the first few days she was eating and drinking and then as I started to go in every day I saw a gradual deterioration in her health.'

'She was sleepy. I don't think she was eating and drinking. In her care plan it looks as if she had not had anything to eat or drink in quite a while.'

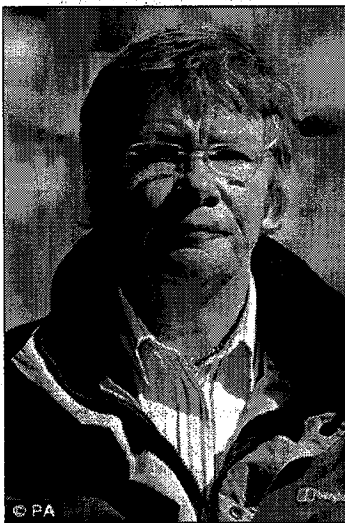
Staff told Mrs Jackson they did not think her mum would get better.

'It was quite a shock when you only think she's going to be rehabilitated.'

'I did say I don't want my mum to suffer but I didn't once mention about any drugs or anything.'

'Dr Barton's name was never mentioned and we had never met Dr Barton.'

Dr Barton has admitted writing an undated prescription, allowing staff to administer between 20-200mg of diamorphine and 20-180mg of midazolam as necessary.



Dr Jane Barton: Allegedly killed elderly at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

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The work outs paid off



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Investigation: The Hampshire hospital where Dr Barton worked during the 1990s

She was started on 30mg of diamorphine and 20mg of midazolam. The hearing had previously heard that 10mg was the appropriate starting level for an elderly person. When Mrs Jackson came back that evening her mother was unconscious. She told the panel: 'I just had a feeling something wasn't quite right, I was genuinely worried.

'I was back in at 8pm that night. My mother was totally unconscious. She never fluttered an eyelid, she never spoke, she was just totally unconscious.'

Mrs Jackson slept in the chair next to her mother that night and spent the following day with her.

It was the first time she saw Dr Barton, who came into the room that morning, August 21, on her rounds.

'She didn't say anything to us,' explained Mrs Jackson.

'She walked up to my mum, said 'won't be long now' and walked out. But she said Dr Barton did not mention anything about drugs to her. A staff nurse said he would call if there was any change to her mother. But Mrs Wilkie had died by the time she returned.

Gladys Richards was admitted to Dr Barton's care after she had dislocated her hip and was expected to make a full recovery.

She died three days after her admission, again in August 1998.

Her daughter Lesley O'Brien sobbed as she described the last moments with her mother.

Nurse of 42 years Mrs O'Brien said: 'I arrived at 12.15 and as I pushed open the doors I could hear tremendous screaming and I said to the ward sister that's my mother.

'I entered the room. She was lying in a terrible position for somebody who needed a hip splint on all the time.

'She screamed in the most terrible way in pain.

'The last words my mother ever uttered to me were 'don't just stand there do something, pain, pain'.

'Her hip was in an awful position.'

Mrs Richards was then administered a cocktail of diamorphine, midazolam and anti-psychotic drug haloperidol, and was given no food or water over the next 72 hours.

The GMC claims Mrs Richards was given 'sub-optimum care' by the doctor.

Hampshire Constabulary probed almost 100 deaths at the hospital dating back to the early 1990s in three separate investigations but no criminal charges were ever brought against the doctor.

Dr Barton denies serious professional misconduct and the hearing continues.

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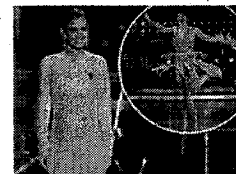
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Drug case told of woman's decline

The daughter of an elderly patient wept as she described how her mother looked "so poorly" after treatment by a doctor accused of overprescribing painkillers.

Dr Jane Barton is accused of serious professional misconduct in treating 12 patients at Hampshire's Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) in the 1990s.

The General Medical Council hearing follows an inquest which found drugs were a factor in five patients' deaths.

Marilyn Jackson said her mother Alice Wilkie had "declined" at the GWMH.

Mrs Wilkie, an 81-year-old dementia sufferer, was admitted to the hospital in August 1998, the GMC fitness to practise hearing heard.

Mrs Jackson, 58, said she understood that her mother had been admitted for rehabilitation and "replacement", which means assessment for a move to a suitable home.

She told the hearing her mother had been responding "very well" to treatment for a urinary tract infection at the nearby Queen Alexandra Hospital, but began to decline within days of arriving at GWMH.

On one occasion, Mrs Jackson said ward manager and senior nursing staff member Philip Beed had told her that her mother's condition was deteriorating.

"He just said that he did not think that my mum would get better - I probably could see that she was going to die in there.

"It was quite a shock when you only think that she is going to be 'replaced', we were all really in a bit of shock," she explained to the panel.

Mrs Jackson told the hearing that her mother died on 21 August 1998, hours after a morning visit to her bedside from Dr Barton.

"Dr Barton never said, 'good morning I am Dr Barton', we did not know who she was, she ignored me and my daughters completely, walked round to the other side of my mum's bed, looked over it and said, 'won't take long now', turned round and walked back out."

Police investigation

Her mother was administered powerful painkillers via a syringe driver without the consent of the family, Mrs Jackson added.

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.

Arthur 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



The patients died at the hospital between 1996 and 1999

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massively increase the dosage if they saw fit.

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

Dr Barton is also accused of "terribly inadequate" note-taking and failing to explain why she had given patients certain drugs.

The hearing is expected to last 11 weeks.

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