

Code A

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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 07 July 2009 09:36  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 7 Jul 09

## Press Cuttings Summary

Tuesday 7 July 2009

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### Direct Mentions

#### Print Mentions

Following pro-active work from the press office, the medical news today website notes that high profile doctors, including representatives of the BMA and BAPIO, have added their support to the GMC's licensing campaign. The full article can be read via the following link:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/156470.php>

There is an opinion piece in *The Daily Telegraph* regarding the House of Lords debate of the Coroners and Justice Bill. The author lists several reasons why doctors should not be involved in helping people to end their lives, citing that objections noted by the GMC and a number of physicians.

The Solicitor's Journal mentions the GMC's draft guidance on End of Life Care is currently out for consultation:

[http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/story.asp?sectioncode=3&storycode=14506&c=1&eclipse\\_action=getsession&eclipse\\_action=getsession](http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/story.asp?sectioncode=3&storycode=14506&c=1&eclipse_action=getsession&eclipse_action=getsession)

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* mentions The West Yorkshire Foundation School prize given to winner Jamilla Hussain, for a personal presentation on how her training had mapped the GMC's core guidance *Good Medical Practice*.

*The News* (Portsmouth) continues to cover the fitness to practise hearing of Dr Jane Barton.

*The Metro* covers the hearing of Dr Jonathan Chahal (allegations of procuring and abusing drugs - hearing is ongoing). There are also two further BBC Online mentions about this hearing:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/8124990.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lancashire/8137311.stm>

#### Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions today.

#### Times Letters page and GMC published responses

GMC Chair Peter Rubin writes in response to an article from Friday about whistleblowers, stating that GMC guidance makes it clear "doctors have a duty to report their concerns about patient safety". To view the original article, please click the following link:

[http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry\\_sectors/public\\_sector/article6625827.ece](http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/industry_sectors/public_sector/article6625827.ece)

There are also letters from Lord Falconer and several of his supporters who agree in the debate to be held later today about the Coroners and Justice Bill.

Another letter, from a medical school administrator writing in response to an earlier article about the conduct of medical students, sees the author recalling the times he had to assist students who had been arrested following drunken antics. He calls for a stronger use of common sense in such cases. The letter can be read in full at:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article6652157.ece>

## Other News

There are several stories today around the subject of assisted suicide, ahead of today's debate into the Coroner's and Justice Bill. *The Daily Telegraph* quotes figures that reveal one British person visits a suicide clinic every week.

There are two comments in *The Guardian* on the subject: the first is from Tom Shakespeare who argues in favour of a change in the law that will allow disabled/terminally ill people to end their lives if they wish to. Disability activist **Code A** argues that disabled and terminally ill people need more support to live and not the right to die. Dominic Lawson, writing in *The Independent* is also sceptical of Lord Lester of Herne Hill's plans to rename those who request assisted suicide as "loved ones".

A letter in the *Scotsman* on 4 July from a member of the public argues that medics' time would be better spent providing scientifically-based healthcare than spiritual care:

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/opinion/Interactive-Serve-up-the-courts.5429621.jp> (See last letter, entitled 'Medics should pray in their own time').

On 4 July the *Herald* published a letter from commentator Ian F M Saint-Yves arguing that the recent BMA conference vote against the legalisation of assisted dying may not be in step with the opinion of a majority of medics:

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/letters/display.var.2518081.0.Decision\\_denies\\_terminallyill\\_patients\\_the\\_right\\_to\\_assisted\\_euthanasia.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/letters/display.var.2518081.0.Decision_denies_terminallyill_patients_the_right_to_assisted_euthanasia.php)

## Headlines:

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 03/07/2009

Number of words : 484

GP's care for elderly 'generally sensible'

The doctor accused of misconduct over the deaths of 12 elderly hospital patients has been praised for her standard of care. Allegations centre on poor notekeeping, wide dose ranges of powerful drugs including Diamorphine - a form of heroin - sedatives and antipsychotics.

GMC

Yorkshire Evening Post

Delivery date : 03/07/2009

Number of words : 262

Jimmy fixes it for medical researchers

Sir Jimmy Savile fixed it for junior doctors when he handed out prizes for the best research projects being carried out at West Yorkshire hospitals. Notes the GMC.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 1188

Seriously ill patients need more than 'good faith' to protect them

Ian McColl argues that doctors should not be involved in assisted suicides.

GMC

The Times

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 95

NHS whistleblowers

"Sir, GMC guidance makes it clear that doctors have a duty to report their concerns about patient safety." Letter from Peter Rubin Chair, General Medical Council.

#### End of Life

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 293

A Briton dies in suicide clinic every two weeks

One Briton ends their life in a foreign "suicide clinic" every two weeks, campaigners have claimed ahead of a crucial vote on euthanasia in the House of Lords. At least 115 people from Britain have travelled abroad to die since 2002 with the rate increasing every year, figures show.

#### GMC

Metro

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 122

Doctor admits he held 'gas parties'

A doctor who inhaled 'laughing gas' while on duty at a children's A&E ward admitted yesterday he was fortunate not to have harmed any of his patients.

#### End of Life

The Guardian

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 296

The terminally ill deserve choice at the end of life

Comment on assisted suicide.

#### End of Life

The Guardian

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 355

Give disabled people help to live, not help to die

Comment on assisted suicide.

#### End of Life

The Independent

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 1270

Death, dignity and the darker side of family dynamics

In his article in yesterday's Independent Anthony Lester introduced his advocacy of a measure which would legalise the export of Britons to a Swiss "assisted suicide" centre, by referring to them all as "loved ones".

#### End of Life

The Times

Delivery date : 07/07/2009

Number of words : 499

Safeguards and assisting loved ones to die

Letter from Lord Falconer. "Sir, The letter (July 4) from Lord Brennan and others appears to agree with the result my amendment seeks to achieve, namely prosecution in cases where those who accompany a person to an assisted suicide abroad are motivated by malice, but not where their motive is compassionate assistance."

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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](#)

# GP's care for elderly 'generally sensible'

11:33 Friday 03 July 2009 15:51 Thursday 02 July 2009

**The doctor accused of misconduct over the deaths of 12 elderly hospital patients has been praised for her standard of care.**

Dr Jane Tandy told a General Medical Council hearing she was happy with GP Jane Barton's care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and said the decisions she made were 'generally sensible'.

The consultant geriatrician worked on the now defunct Dryad ward, where Dr Barton was then clinical assistant, from June 1994 to September 1996.

She gave evidence on day 18 of the hearing into Dr Barton's fitness to practice.

## ADVERTISING

Allegations centre on poor notekeeping, wide dose ranges of powerful drugs including Diamorphine – a form of heroin – sedatives and antipsychotics.

Dr Tandy told the London hearing: 'I was very happy with her care.

'I thought the decisions she made were generally sensible.'

But when asked about time pressures on Dr Barton, who juggled the day-to-day running of the Gosport War Memorial wards with her job as a partner at Forton Medical Centre, she said: 'I think the thing I remember most was I didn't feel the notekeeping was a high standard, but it was more important that she saw the patients.'

'From patients referred in from other hospitals her standard of notekeeping didn't seem to be out of the ordinary.'

Dr Barton has already admitted that dose ranges of powerful drugs she prescribed were too wide, and could have led to elderly patients being given too many drugs.

She also admits her prescriptions were 'potentially hazardous,' and that she failed to keep adequate notes.

And Dr Barton has agreed her notes were 'inappropriate' and not in patients' best interests.

The panel is examining her conduct in relation to the care, treatment and subsequent deaths of Geoffrey Packman (known as Mick), Ruby Lake, 84, Robert Wilson, 74, Elsie Devine, 88, Leslie Pittock, 82, Elsie Lavender, 88, Arthur Cunningham, 79 (known as Brian), Enid Spurgeon, 92, Alice Wilkie, Jean Stevens, 73, Eva Page and Gladys Richards, 91.

She denies serious professional misconduct.

(Proceeding).

## FIVE DEATHS PROBED

The hearing into the fitness to practice of Dr Barton – who denies serious professional misconduct – is set to last until at least August 21.

It comes after an inquest jury at Portsmouth Coroner's Court in April heard that the deaths of five patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital were 'more than minimally' contributed to by the medication given.

In three cases they found the use of painkillers was inappropriate.

But they also ruled the medication had been administered for therapeutic reasons in all five cases and that medication had not contributed to a further five deaths.

The GP – a partner at Forton Medical Centre, Whites Place, Gosport – was clinical assistant on now defunct Dryad and Daedalus wards where the patients died between 1996 and 1999.

Dr Barton could be banned from practising medicine if found guilty by the General Medical Council.

Read more: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/gp-s-care-for-elderly-generally-sensible-1-1237250#ixzz3shjTr54F>