

Code A

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From: Code A
 Sent: 01 February 2010 10:00
 To: Press Cuttings
 Subject: Press Cuttings - 1 Feb 10

Press Cuttings Summary

Monday 1 February 2010

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

There is further coverage of Dr Wakefield, Prof. Walker-Smith and Prof. Murch's case following the hearing last week:

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/health-news/2010/01/28/mmr-row-doctor-failed-in-his-duties-says-gmc-91466-25706654/>

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/national-news/2010/01/28/mmr-row-doctor-abused-trust-gmc-97319-25707858/>

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/2010/01/29/coventry-doctor-simon-murch-faces-being-struck-off-over-mmr-jab-scare-92746-25710210/>

<http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk/liverpool-news/regional-news/2010/01/29/mmr-doctor-andrew-wakefield-abused-trust-92534-25711981/>

<http://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news2/Kids39-MMR-jab-gets-mum39s.6028781.jp>

<http://www.express.co.uk/ourcomments/view/155132>

In his diary column in *The Independent*, Matthew Norman notes journalist Melanie Phillips' support for Code A case. He also writes that the *Daily Mail* accepts it made a mistake in 'swinging so fervently behind Code A claims'.

The commercial radio station Wave 105.2 reports the case of Dr Jane Barton on its website. It says that the doctor, whose hearing finished on Friday, will be allowed to continue working as a doctor despite being found guilty of serious professional misconduct. The article includes a statement from Niall Dickson which says that: "Our view was the doctor's name should have been erased from the medical register following the panel's finding of serious professional misconduct. We will be carefully reviewing the decision before deciding what further action, if any, may be necessary":

<http://www.wave105.com/Article.asp?id=1678728&spid=25211>

Concerns have been raised that doctors' financial investment in a private hospital near Bath may raise conflicts of interest. The article mentions GMC guidance:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/8488586.stm>

An article in *The Independent* claims that some psychiatrists and psychotherapists who seek to change their patient's sexual orientation are becoming unified and co-ordinated, with the help of the American conversion movement. In some cases, the article says, the NHS is paying for the treatment. The journalist who worked undercover investigating the issue explains what he found about how conversion therapists operate and says that he has lodged a complaint with the GMC about Code A.

A comment piece in *The Telegraph* mentions the GMC and says that 'almost the entire medical profession' is against proposals for assisted suicide. The piece argues that a public poll about assisted dying cannot be the guidance for changing the law as there is 'too much at stake'.

The *Belfast Telegraph* reports on a second inquest into the deaths of a mother and her daughter five years after they happened. The mother who was responsible for her daughter's death and then went on to kill herself, was treated for psychiatric problems in the weeks leading up to her death. The article notes how there could be "further repercussions" following the inquest for one of the doctors who has been referred to the General Medical Council. Coroner John Leckey also said that "the inquest should be seen as a "dry run" on issues that can be taken before the General Medical Council".

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/fresh-inquest-into-mum-who-killed-child-and-herself-14659017.html>

The Romford Recorder and the Newham Recorder report that Newham GPs will be included in the revalidation pilots, announced by Health Minister Andy Burnham last week:

<http://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/content/newham/recorder/news/story.aspx?brand=RECOOnline&category=newsSpecialNewham&tBrand=reconline&tCategory=newsspecialnewham&itemid=WeED29%20Jan%202010%2017%3A20%3A32%3A390>

<http://www.newhamrecorder.co.uk/content/newham/recorder/news/story.aspx?brand=RECOOnline&category=newsNEWHAM&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsnewham&itemid=WeED29%20Jan%202010%2017%3A18%3A58%3A483>

The news is also mentioned briefly on the Pharmaceutical Journal (online)

http://www.pjonline.com/news/gp_revalidation_trial

There is local coverage of the following fitness to practise hearings:

Dr Nicholas Spicer (*The Sunday Mercury*):<http://www.sundaymercury.net/news/midlands-news/2010/01/31/worcestershire-doctor-caught-with-child-sex-stories-says-i-m-no-pervert-66331-25726609/>

Dr Barbara Czaslowska (*The Manchester Evening News*):http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1190964_surgeon_who_botched_operation_lacked_experience

BMA News (30 Jan 2010)

- The magazine covers the inquest into the death of [Code A] reporting that Dr Christopher Browning, one of the clinical governors for the out of hours service involved, alerted colleagues to the dangers of over-prescribing after two previous cases. When questioned if he thought it was his responsibility to highlight the risks of employing GP locums from abroad and whom might be unfamiliar with the NHS, Dr Browning stated it was the GMC's preserve.
- The Q&A section notes that the staff and associate specialists committee is working closely with the GMC and PMETB on the impending merger of the two organisations and participating in the consultation on Lord Patel's review of medical education.

Hospital Dr website

The website comments on how public confidence in the MMR vaccine can be increased. The article also comments on the findings on fact against Dr Wakefield and colleagues at their recent GMC hearing:

<http://www.hospitaldr.co.uk/blogs/dr-blogs/how-do-we-repair-the-damage-of-the-mmr-debacle>

BMJ (30 Jan 2010)

- The journal reports on the GMC's call for greater language and skills testing of European trained doctors, quoting GMC Chair Niall Dickson from a recent statement that: "The current situation is profoundly unsatisfactory...we are not able to give the level of assurance we want because of the present legal framework".
- GMC Chair Niall Dickson is listed as being one of the judges on this year's Health Communicator of the Year Award.

The Lancet (30 Jan 2010)

- The journal discusses aspects of medical ethics and looks at autonomy and consent, quoting from the guidance of several regulators including the GMC.

An article on *Moneywise* about having medical procedures overseas notes that one company, run by a Linda Briggs, only deals with foreign surgeons who are GMC registered.

The *Investors Chronicle* mentions about the Customs and Excise scheme to encourage medical professionals who are not paying the full amount in tax to voluntarily come forward. The article notes this scheme only covers those regulated by the GMC.

Broadcast Mentions

There were further mentions yesterday on the BBC network about the [Code A] et al and Dr Jane Barton fitness to practise hearings.

Letters pages

There are no relevant letters today.

Other News

New figures have been released which show that in some areas of the UK a single doctor is responsible for 300,000 people when on call out of hours. The *Daily Mail* mentions the death of **Code A** who died after being treated by Dr Ubani, a locum doctor from Germany. Several letters in *The Daily Mail* focus on the issue.

The Daily Telegraph reports that the number of patients readmitted to hospital has increased by 50 per cent under Labour. The rising rate of readmissions has been blamed on targets that put pressure on hospitals to free up beds.

There is widespread coverage of author Terry Pratchett's call for assisted suicide tribunals. He has offered himself as a test case to establish that he is of sound mind before a panel of legal and medical experts.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8490521.stm>

Headlines:

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 363

Ubani provider made fatality-risk warning

A GP warned that a death could occur at his out-of-hours provider one month before one of its patients died of a diamorphine overdose, an inquest has heard. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 464

BMA Q&A

Medical question and answer session, noting General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 251

GMC to lobby for wider English tests

The incoming chief executive of the General Medical Council, Niall Dickson, has laid down a gauntlet over the NHS employing doctors whose command of English is inadequate.

GMC

The Lancet

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 1708

Autonomy should chair, not rule

Comment on medical ethics, noting the General Medical Council.

GMC

Moneywise

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 1576

HEALTH CARE TOURISM ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRIP?

Sam Barrett explains how you too can join the medical tourist crowd without risking your health. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 767

Journalists and digital storytellers vie for health award

Overview of the BMJ Group Awards, noting the role of Niall Dickson, chief executive of the General Medical Council, as a judge.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 399

Why can't GPs give 24-hour care any more?

Letter comments on GPs.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 791

Assisted suicide is not about consumer choice

Our YouGov poll, published today, shows overwhelming public support for the introduction of legalised assisted suicide in the United Kingdom.

GMC

The Independent

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 137

Mel's law

Matthew Norman comment on and the GMC.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 775

The 300,000 patients with just one out of hours GP

New figures from 32 areas, revealed after questions from the Daily Mail and other newspapers, show how in one area of the country, Wigan, a single doctor is responsible for 300,000 people throughout the night. The average is 142,000. Mike Stone, a health analyst and former chief executive of the Patients Association, said: "It's absolutely ludicrous to have one doctor for a quarter of a million people."

NHS issues

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 286

Hospitals 'turning patients out too soon'

The number of patients readmitted to hospital has increased by 50 per cent under Labour, raising concerns that sick people are being discharged too soon in order to meet government targets.

GMC

The Independent

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 4084

The ex-gay files

Is homosexuality a form of mental illness? A small but evangelical band of psychotherapists believe that it is - and they're on a mission to 'heal' the afflicted. Patrick Strudwick enters the bizarre world of gay-to-straight conversions.

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