

Code A

46924929

From: Code A
Sent: 19 February 2010 09:19
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 19 Feb 10

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Press Cuttings Summary

Friday 19 February 2010

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

The *Edinburgh Evening News* and *Healthcare Republic* report that the GMC is set to begin a consultation into revalidation and is seeking the views from people in the area. This follows a press release issued by the media team on Wednesday:

<http://www.healthcarerepublic.com/news/984633/GMC-launch-revalidation-consultation-next-month/>

An article in *Post*, an insurance magazine, reports that the Health Insurance Counter Fraud Group has criticised the GMC for granting voluntary erasure to Dr Nigel Sacks on health grounds and allowing him to avoid an investigation for misconduct that potentially costs insurers thousands of pounds.

Fitness to Practise hearings/cases:

Dr Martin Quinn (misleading a hospital about being under investigation by the GMC) – *Manchester Evening News*
 Dr Adam Osborne (prescribing drugs to friends and family members) – *Daily Telegraph*, *Metro*, *Lancashire Evening Post* and *Cambridge Evening News*

The Times and *The Guardian* report that Code A has resigned as Executive Director and Research Chief at 'Thoughtful House', the autism research centre in Texas. The articles both mention the recent fitness to practise hearing of Dr Wakefield and two colleagues, which found their actions amounted to serious professional misconduct.

Gastrointestinal Nursing

- The journal reports that *The Lancet* has retracted the study by Code A and colleagues into the supposed link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Nature

- There is an article that looks at how more women could be encouraged into senior positions in scientific academia and research. The author has found that greater transparency helps, quoting GMC figures on how many female Professors there are in the UK.

Egovmonitor (online) reports that Stephen Shaw CBE has been appointed as the first chief executive of the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA):

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/33773>

Chemist and Druggist (online) also refers to the establishment of OHPA in an article about pharmacy's disciplinary procedures: http://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/c/portal/layout?p_l_id=259751&CMPI_SHARED_articleId=3717289

Broadcast Mentions

Last night, BBC Radio 4's 'The Report' looked at the use of deep sedation for elderly or terminally ill patients and mentions the recent fitness to practise hearing of Dr Jane Barton. GMC Council Member Ros Levenson gave an interview for the programme talking about End of Life Care. To listen again:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qps83#synopsis>

BBC One North West continues to report on Dr Adam Osborne's fitness to practise hearing.

Letters pages

There are no letters to note today.

Other News

The Daily Telegraph reports that guidance will be issued to GPs about how to use the new 'fit note' system, due to be introduced in April. This will involve family doctors deciding what patients are fit to do at work rather than signing them off as sick.

Headlines:

GMC

Manchester Evening News

Delivery date : 18/02/2010

Number of words : 467

Doctor denies he misled hospital to get new job

Article about the General Medical Council investigation into Dr Adam Osbourne

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 19/02/2010

Number of words : 361

Osborne: I didn't even know patient's name

The younger brother of George Osborne, the shadow chancellor, prescribed drugs for a prostitute despite knowing only her first name, claiming he was "incredibly stressed" at the time. Dr Adam Osborne said the woman was suffering withdrawal symptoms from cocaine. Giving evidence at a hearing of the General Medical Council, he said his priority was to treat the woman, known as Miss B, whom he had known for only six months.

GMC

Gastrointestinal Nursing

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 137

This month

The Lancet retracted the paper it published 12 years ago falsely suggesting a link between the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism which caused panic among parents and had a serious, negative effect on immunization policy. This article mentions the GMC verdict on Code A

GMC

Metro

Delivery date : 19/02/2010

Number of words : 159

Osborne brother: I made a mistake

The doctor brother of shadow chancellor George Osborne admitted yesterday that it was 'highly inappropriate' for him to prescribe anti-psychotic drugs to a prostitute friend. Adam Osborne, 33, said the woman called him for help during a cocaine comedown. 'She felt there were insects crawling on her skin and she was seeing spiders on the wall. She was incredibly distressed and acutely unwell,' he told the General Medical Council.

GMC

Lancashire Evening Post
 Delivery date : 17/02/2010
 Number of words : 605

North West Round-up

Article about the General Medical Council investigation into Dr Adam Osbourne.

GMC

The Guardian
 Delivery date : 19/02/2010
 Number of words : 265

MMR vaccine doctor quits autism centre

Code A the doctor whose research triggered a health scare over the MMR vaccine in Britain, has resigned from the autism centre he founded in Texas.

GMC

Nature Magazine
 Delivery date : 18/02/2010
 Number of words : 491

A step towards transparency

Policy-makers and university administrators have long wrangled over the barriers that hinder women's advancement in science. The General Medical Council has recognised that academic science is failing to attract and retain women.

GMC

The Times
 Delivery date : 19/02/2010
 Number of words : 656

Doctor behind MMR vaccine scare quits American clinic after misconduct ruling

Code A the disgraced doctor who first claimed that the MMR vaccine could cause autism, has resigned unexpectedly from the American clinic he set up after his work was widely discredited in Britain. Three weeks after being found guilty of serious misconduct, when his US clinic offered the doctor its measured backing, the fallout appears to have cost **Code A** his job. The Thoughtful House Centre for Children in Austin, Texas, which was set up by Wakefield in 2005 with the support of celebrity backers, confirmed to The Times yesterday that the gastroenterologist had left its employment.

Doctors

Daily Telegraph
 Delivery date : 19/02/2010
 Number of words : 228

Goodbye sick note, hello fit note

Doctors will issue "fit notes" instead of sick notes for the first time. GPs should consider what tasks ailing workers are capable of doing instead of simply signing them off sick, according to ministers. The British Medical Association is broadly in support of the change but has expressed concerns that GPs might not have the necessary knowledge of the workplace to make recommendations.

GMC

Post Magazine
 Delivery date : 18/02/2010
 Number of words : 328

Fraud group slams GMC as surgeon avoids panel

THE Health Insurance Counter Fraud Group has accused the General Medical Council of providing a "route map" for doctors who seek to investigation for misconduct that potentially costs insurers thousands of pounds.

GMC

Cambridge News

Delivery date : 17/02/2010

Number of words : 144

Osborne's brother in front of GMC

A doctor who is the brother of shadow chancellor George Osborne prescribed anti-psychotic drugs to a friend displaying symptoms consistent with the side-effects of cocaine, a disciplinary hearing heard yesterday.

GMC

Edinburgh Evening News

Delivery date : 18/02/2010

Number of words : 78

Views sought on GPs' future

A widespread consultation seeking the views of Lothians patients is to take place about the future of GPs. The General Medical Council wants to hear from people in the area as part of the revalidation process, which will see doctors made to sign up to a new national register. The process begins on 1 March and runs for three months.

GMC

The Times

Delivery date : 19/02/2010

Number of words : 107

Doctor behind MMR vaccine scare quits clinic after misconduct ruling

Texas **Code A** the disgraced doctor who first claimed that the MMR vaccine could cause autism, has resigned unexpectedly from the American clinic he set up after his work was discredited in Britain (Sam Lister writes).

GMC

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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