

Code A

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**From:** Code A  
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**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 1 April 10

## Press Cuttings Summary

Thursday 1 April 2010

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### Direct Mentions

#### Print & Online Mentions

##### *Student BMA News (April 2010)*

- A letter from GMC Chief Executive Niall Dickson clarifies the GMC's position in regards to student registration. Mr Dickson explains that, although the GMC previously decided in 2007 not to proceed with student registration, it has been suggested students would benefit from greater regulatory engagement as they near qualification, nothing will be decided until the GMC Council considers the recommendations in Lord Patel's final report
- The magazine reports that the GMC has launched a podcast to help students develop higher standards of professionalism and that the GMC plans to engage with students on this topic throughout the year
- The BMA's response to Code A review is also mentioned. The association states they are opposed to plans for a single exam for medical students but that the GMC could enhance their quality assurance checks of medical schools to achieve greater parity among graduating students. They also welcomed a proposal for the GMC to define the outcomes required for foundation year 2 doctors
- An article looks at the benefits that the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) can give to the medical profession. UKCAT tests how high a person rates on various non-academic qualities, such as decision making skills and confidence in communicating. The article mentions GMC fitness to practise statistics

##### *BMJ (online)*

- The positive review of the GMC's fitness to practise procedures, as reflected by the CHRE's recent report, includes a note of "high quality and robust procedures." The GMC's IT and case management systems were highlighted by the CHRE as examples of good practice. <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20000887>
- A news in brief item notes that GP practices which communicate with patients via text message must heed the GMC's guidelines to protect confidential information. <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20000889>
- Des Spence, a Glasgow GP writing an opinion piece, asks whether doctors should make public their interests (such as payments and hospitality) in the form of a register and asks if the GMC could take a role in this

The *Eastern Daily Press* and *Beccles and Bungay Journal* reports that the our of hours care provider Take Care Now will no longer provide this service in the Great Yarmouth area. Lib Dem health spokesman Norman Lamb noted that he highlighted a number of issues to the House of Commons Health Select Committee recently, including how doctors from the EU can be registered with the GMC "without having to pass a language or competency test in the UK". <http://www.becclesandbungayjournal.co.uk/content/bbjournal/news/story.aspx?brand=BBJOnline&category=NEWS&Brand=bbjonline&Category=news&itemid=NOED31%20Mar%202010%2007%3A01%3A53%3A603>

*Private Eyes* reports that concerns about University Hospital Bristol's pathology department have been raised with, among other bodies, the GMC.

The *Yorkshire Post* notes that Dr Jane Barton is due to retire and mentions her fitness to practise hearing that concluded in January.

The *News & Star* and *Whitehaven Journal* covers the recent court case of Dr Ian Mitchell, who was accused of downloading child pornography. He was given a two year suspended sentence and put on the sex offenders register. The article mentions he is currently suspended by the GMC pending an investigation.

## Fitness to Practise

Dr Patrick Gallagher – hearing to start next week (*The Northern Echo*).

## Revalidation

### *Clinical Medicine*

GMC Chair Peter Rubin writes an editorial about revalidation, explaining how the process will benefit the profession. Professor Rubin writes, “Revalidation is the biggest change in medical regulation in 150 years...we will start only where and when we are ready, with progressive phasing-in over the ensuing two to three years”.

Following a press release issued by the media team, the launch of the revalidation toolkit is featured on Medi Lexicon: <http://www.medilexicon.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=183992>

*The Law Society Gazette* reports that lawyers should undergo five-yearly competence testing, like the revalidation system for doctors, according to the chairwoman of the Legal Services Consumer Panel. <http://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/consumer-panel-calls-competence-test-lawyers>

## Broadcast Mentions

BBC 1 Southampton, BBC Radio Solent and ITV Meridian South report on the CHRE's review of the Dr Jane Barton hearing and that the sanction to register her with conditions will remain.

## Letters pages

There are no relevant letters today.

## Other News

The Care Quality Commission has warned that 22 hospital trusts are not meeting their new national standards of care and must improve. A further 10 could be registered only with conditions attached, under their new registration system (*The Times*).

The *Evening Standard* reports on a National Patient Safety Agency investigation that found thousands of patients were at risk because GPs, hospital doctors and nurses did not diagnose cancer.

A study in *Clinical Medicine* has found that the length and frequency of doctor's sick leave has actually doubled in the year since the European Working Time Directive imposed a limit on the maximum number of hours doctors can work in a week.

## Headlines:

### GMC

Yorkshire Post

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 71

[Doctor in deaths probe to retire](#)

The doctor at the centre of a probe into deaths at a community hospital is to retire.

### Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 393

[Doctors take more time off despite cut in hours](#)

A cut in working hours under European law has not improved the health of junior doctors and has increased their rates of sickness, according to a study at Conquest Hospital, Hastings.

### NHS issues

The Times

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 185

Improve or stop treating patients, NHS trusts told

The NHS regulator, the Care Quality Commission, has warned that 22 health trusts are not meeting national standards of care and must urgently improve if they are to continue treating patients. The Commission said that a further ten trusts could be registered only "with conditions", under a system of medical regulation that starts today

GMC

The Northern Echo

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 146

Police doctor faces scrutiny by fitness panel

A North-East police doctor is facing a General Medical Council hearing into allegations that he claimed fees to which he was not entitled.

GMC

Student BMJ

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 943

Better selection of medical students

In a recent study in the BMJ, James and colleagues assess whether a new test, the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT), improves the selection process for school leaver applicants to medical (and dental) schools. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Student BMA News

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 99

GMC launches professionalism drive

The General Medical Council has launched an initiative to help medical students develop and maintain high standards of professionalism throughout their careers.

GMC

Student BMA News

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 452

Doctors restate case against a single exam

A national exam for medical students would cause more harm than good, doctors leaders have warned. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Student BMA News

Delivery date : 01/04/2010

Number of words : 147

The GMC line on registration

Letter from Niall Dickson chief executive of the General Medical Council: "I wonder if I might clarify the GMC position in relation to undergraduate registration ('Patel panel proposes student register', February 2010, page 1)."

GMC

Private Eye

Delivery date : 02/04/2010

Number of words : 639

### MEDICINEBALLS

Comment: "It is more than a decade since the public interest disclosure act was introduced to protect whistleblowers, but bullying and discrimination against those who raise concerns in the NHS is still rife." Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

News & Star

Delivery date : 27/03/2010

Number of words : 545

GP who downloaded child porn avoids jail

A family doctor who downloaded 642 images of child porn from the internet has escaped jail.

NHS issues

Evening Standard

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 95

Cancer error risk to patients

The health of hundreds of thousands of patients was put at risk when GPs, hospital doctors and nurses failed to diagnose cancer, according to an NHS report. An investigation found that over a period of a year, doctors failed to spot key signs of cancer, tissue samples were mixed up, while some patients were wrongly given the all-clear.

GMC

Eastern Daily Press

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 508

New deal ends out-of-hours cover by controversial firm

An out-of-hours health provider that has been criticised after the death of a patient will no longer serve patients in the Great Yarmouth and Waveney health district. Notes the General Medical Council.

### Web links:

**National Newspapers:**

[The Times](#)

[The Independent](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Daily Telegraph](#)

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[The Daily Express](#)

[The Sun](#)

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**Medical Press:**

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