

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 08 February 2011 10:17
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - Tuesday 8 February
Attachments: News Letter 0802p9.pdf; Daily Mirror 0802.pdf; Irish Daily Star 0802p24.pdf; Irish News 0802p4.pdf

Press Cuttings Summary

Tuesday 8 February 2011

Direct Mention

Print & Online Mentions

There is extensive coverage across the national and regional media about today's Health Committee report on revalidation, which contains a number of recommendations for the GMC.

The Independent and the i newspaper outline the plans for revalidation but report that the Health Committee said there were 'weaknesses' in the plans, in particular around detecting inadequate doctors:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/doctor-appraisals-too-weak-say-mps-2207451.html>

The Daily Telegraph leads with the Health Committee's recommendation that the GMC must be able to test the language skills of doctors from the European Union and also highlights comments from the report that revalidation has taken too long to introduce and there are weaknesses in plans to deal with concerns about doctors' fitness to practise. The online edition quotes Niall Dickson saying about language testing of EEA doctors: "We are determined to find a solution and are currently working with ministers and officials at the Department of Health to ensure patients are fully protected":

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8308666/Medical-watchdog-must-ensure-that-doctors-can-speak-good-English-MPs-say.html#>

Code A Chair of the BMA, writes in the Telegraph in response to today's report. In the piece he highlights that appraisal is currently patchy and urges the GMC to take note of this inquiry and work with doctors to ensure that revalidation is delivered on time and benefits patients and doctors:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8309296/Doctor-assessments-the-BMAs-view.html#>

The Guardian leads with the Health Committee's recommendation that there must be no further delays to revalidation and that revalidation must also identify poorly performing doctors. The online edition quotes Niall Dickson as saying the introduction of revalidation is 'our number one priority':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/feb/08/gmc-five-year-doctor-assessment>

A short piece in the Sun states that MPs have recommended that doctors should face regular checks and that they have also called for better English speaking among foreign medics.

Parliament online carries a detailed summary of the report and notes how MPs are calling the GMC to be accountable to Parliament. Reviewing the GMC's current proposals, MPs warn that too little attention has been given to the issue of how to deal with doctors whose practice gives cause for concern. It pulls out sections of the report on remediation, the appraisal system, responsible officers and language:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/news/revalidation-report/>

The Scotsman, Daily Star online, the Belfast Telegraph, Liverpool Post, Yorkshire Post and Newcastle Chronicle all report that the Health Committee said there were 'weaknesses' in the plans, in particular around detecting inadequate doctors. The articles also briefly outline the proposals for revalidation and mention that revalidation is being introduced following the case of Dr Shipman:

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/north-east-news/uk-and-world-news/2011/02/08/mps-warn-on-doctor-regulation-plans-84229-28132192/>

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/GMC-to-tighten-doctors39-rules.6713595.jp>
<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/comment/Checking-up.6713391.jp>
<http://www.loughboroughecho.net/news/national-news/2011/02/08/mps-warn-on-doctor-regulation-plans-73871-28132246/>
<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/latestnews/view/175801/MPs-warn-on-doctor-regulation-plans/>

A comment piece in the Yorkshire Post states that it is right that there are regular checks on doctors to ensure standards are maintained at all times, but expresses concerns that the GMC has not yet implemented this system.

The HSJ highlights that the GMC will now be directly accountable to the Health Committee:
<http://www.hsj.co.uk/topics/nhs-regulation-and-inspection/mps-to-hold-gmc-to-account/5025279.article>

BBC News online reports that MPs have said the NHS must up its game to ensure the formal system of doctor checks can start at the end of next year: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-12385392>

There is further coverage of Code A a dentist and oral medicine specialist, who is being investigated by the General Dental Council after concerns about his work led to 117 patients being recalled. It reports that he has been referred to the GMC. The Minister has announced an inquiry. (Please see attached).
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/cancer-scandal-dentist-may-have-delayed-15-cancer-diagnoses-15076680.html>

The News in brief section of BMJ Careers online reports on the GMC's consultation into national professional examinations following a press release issued by the media team:
<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20001845>

In BMJ Careers online, Fiona Pathiraja, clinical adviser to the NHS Medical Director and Christine Outram, Managing Director of Medical Education England, discuss how structured shadowing placements can improve the confidence, competence, and safety of newly qualified foundation year 1 doctors. The GMC's guidance, Tomorrow's Doctors is cited:
<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20001854>

The Yorkshire Post reports on an inquest into the death of Margaret Morley who died in 2008 from broncho-pneumonia. The Dewsbury and District Hospital failed to get written consent from the patient. The inquest heard the hospital breached GMC guidelines.

Fitness to Practise

The Daily Telegraph reports on Code A re-application for voluntary erasure.

There is further coverage of Code A who was erased from the medical register last week.

There is further coverage of Dr Jane Barton who has asked to be removed from the medical register.

Broadcast Mentions

There is coverage across national and regional broadcast news programmes, including BBC Radio 1, ITV Daybreak and BBC regional radio stations of the Health Committee report on revalidation. The BBC coverage quotes Code A Code A Chair of the Health Committee as saying "If the GMC is going to base revalidation on the annual appraisal process then the first thing it has got to do is to make certain the appraisal process is sufficiently robust." ITV Daybreak is reporting that MPs have recommended that doctors should have yearly appraisals and that the GMC must be able to check the English of all doctors.

There is coverage across the BBC network ahead of a 'File on 4' programme tonight about shaken baby syndrome. Three pathologists have accused the Metropolitan Police of a 'campaign' against expert witnesses in cases of shaken baby syndrome. The coverage briefly mentions that two of the doctors were referred to the GMC and says the Royal College of Pathologists has demanded an inquiry: http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9389000/9389553.stm

There is further coverage across the broadcast media in Northern Ireland about the recall of patients of Code A Code A a consultant at the Belfast Royal Trust and the announcement by the Minister of an inquiry into this incident.

Letters pages

There are no letters to note today.

Other News

The Daily Mail reports on new tests being drawn up by the Nursing and Midwifery Council for EU nurses to work in the UK. They report the European Union want to change the current system which involves more rigorous testing to be replaced with just two days of multiple choice and some role play. The article quotes Code A who says 'It's a ludicrous system. The NHS is very different to other countries' health systems and people need training before they can practise here.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1354695/EU-controls-foreign-nurses-axed-Allowed-work-2-days-testing.html>

The Western Daily Press report on an inquest into the death of Arthur Rose who died after a number of falls at this home. The family argue there was a 'catalogue of errors' in hospital which contributed to his death such as the doctor placing 'do not resuscitate' order without consulting his family. It is reported the family are disappointed the doctors have not been disciplined.

The Evening Standard reports on the Queen's Hospital in Romford, Essex who failed to tell the family of a patient that her condition could not be treated. She died in hospital without her family present.

The Press and Journal report on fireman Laurence Ball who is seeking compensation after he was forced to retire after doctors removed the wrong lung by mistake:

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/781678?UserKey=>

The Daily Mail has an article about how to get the best out of your GP:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1354640/Doctors-advice-How-best-GP-7-minutes.html>

Headlines:

GMC 4 article(s)

Latest health scare sees top dentist's work probed

A top Ulster dentist has been stopped from treating patients at the Royal Victoria Hospital amid serious concerns over his work.

Belfast Telegraph Evening N.Ireland - United Kingdom - 05/02/2011

Pensioner died in 'routine' hospital procedure

A YORKSHIRE hospital has changed its procedures following the death of a grandmother during a routine examination, an inquest heard.

Yorkshire Post Yorkshire - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Doctor reforms to avoid another Shipman 'must not be delayed'

REFORMS designed to prevent a repeat of the Harold Shipman murders by regularly assessing whether doctors are fit to practise must not be delayed any longer, MPs warn today.

Yorkshire Post Yorkshire - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

GMC - Fitness To Practice 18 article(s)

Struck off: The doc who seduced two patients

A doctor who seduced two married patients then repeatedly lied to his colleagues about his womanising has been struck off.

Colchester Gazette Essex - United Kingdom - 07/02/2011

Doctor asks to be removed from register

The doctor at the centre of an inquiry into patients' deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital has asked to be removed from the medical register.

News Hampshire - United Kingdom - 05/02/2011

GP in deaths probe asks to end status

A Hampshire doctor who prescribed drugs that led to the deaths of three patients has asked to be taken off the medical register.

Southern Daily Echo Hampshire - United Kingdom - 07/02/2011

Cancer scandal: questions pile up

THE consultant at the centre of a major health scare is being paid an award of almost £56,000 a year on top of his salary in recognition of his work, the Belfast Telegraph can reveal.

Belfast Telegraph Morning N.Ireland - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Plan for doctors' appraisals 'weak'

PLANS for doctors to face annual appraisals to ensure they are fit to practice contain weaknesses, a group of MPs have said.

Belfast Telegraph Morning N.Ireland - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Doctor regulation alert

THERE are weaknesses in the current plans for regulating doctors to ensure they are fit to practise, MPs said.

Liverpool Daily Post Merseyside - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Flaws in plan to give GPs check-ups

Plans for doctors to face annual appraisals to ensure they are fit to practise contain weaknesses, a group of MPs has said.

Independent 1 - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Foreign GPs 'must speak good English'

The Commons health committee is calling for the General Medical Council to ensure all GPs of foreign origin can speak good English to ensure doctors will be able to communicate effectively with their patients.

The Daily Telegraph - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Assess doctors every five years, say MPs

The House of Commons Health Select Committee has called on the General Medical Council to quickly introduce five-yearly checks on doctors' fitness to practise by the end of 2012. The committee also claims that the system that is created must identify "inadequate and potentially dangerous doctors" as well as being used to eliminate "unsatisfactory practice and improve overall performance".

The Guardian - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Doctor appraisals too weak, say MPs

A group of MPs has said plans for doctors to face annual appraisals to ensure they are fit to practise contain weaknesses.

The Independent - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

GMC to tighten doctors' rules

There are weaknesses in the current plans for regulating doctors to ensure they are fit to practise, MPs have said.

The Scotsman Scotland - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

GPs face skills test

Doctors should face strict checks every five years before their licences are renewed in a bid to protect patients. A Health Select Committee report also called for better English speaking from foreign medics.

The Sun - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Checking up

NEARLY four decades after Harold Shipman, Britain's most infamous GP, began killing patients in his care, the consequences of his murderous activities still reverberate around the National Health Service.

Yorkshire Post Yorkshire - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

GMC urged to push through doctor assessments plans

MPs say scheme to check doctors' fitness to practise every five years must be up and running as promised by late 2012 Five-yearly checks on doctors' fitness to practise must be introduced without further delay, according to MPs, who also criticise regulators for not giving patients a big enough role in the process.

Guardian.Co.UK - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

UK & World News: MPs warn on doctor regulation plans

Identifying potentially dangerous doctors is seen in some quarters as "almost an insignificant part" of the appraisal process, according to a report from the Commons Health Committee.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Failing doctors 'not held to account'

Doctors whose practices have concerned authorities are not being properly scrutinised, an influential committee of MPs has found.

Publics.Co.Uk - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Medical watchdog must ensure that doctors can speak good English, MPs say

Medical watchdogs must be able to ensure that GPs can speak good English, MPs have warned in the wake of the case in which a German doctor gave a fatal overdose of painkillers to a British pensioner.

Telegraph - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Doctor appraisals too weak, say MPs

Plans for doctors to face annual appraisals to ensure they are fit to practise contain weaknesses, a group of MPs has said.

The Independent - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Doctors 2 article(s)

How to get the best out of your GP

A selection of GPs give their tips for what patients should do to make the most of their GP appointment.

Daily Mail - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Baby P doctor in plea to be struck off

Paediatrician Code A who has been accused of failing to correctly diagnose Baby P's injuries has reapplied to be struck off the doctors' register on health grounds.

The Daily Telegraph - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Miscellaneous 2 article(s)

Hospital 'forgot to tell children that mother was terminally ill'

Queen's Hospital in Romford, Essex has been found guilty of maladministration after a patient died alone because doctors failed to tell her and her family her condition could not be treated.

Evening Standard London - United Kingdom - 07/02/2011

Shipman reforms 'delayed too long'

REFORMS designed to prevent a repeat of the Harold Shipman murders by regularly assessing doctors must not be delayed any longer say MPs.

Yorkshire Post Yorkshire - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

NHS Issues 1 article(s)

Fireman misdiagnosed with cancer seeks thousands in compensation

A firefighter who was forced to retire after doctors removed a lung by mistake is seeking hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation from a health board.

The Press And Journal Scotland - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

Colleges & Regulators 1 article(s)

Strict controls on foreign nurses axed by EU diktat

Poorly trained foreign nurses will be allowed to work in Britain after completing only two days of role playing and multiple choice tests, in a shake-up being imposed by the European Union, which says tests on foreign workers go against its freedom of movement laws. The new tests are being drawn up by the Nursing and Midwifery Council but senior health officials fear the multiple choice assessments, which will begin in April, will be unrealistic and too easy.

Daily Mail - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

End Of Life 1 article(s)

Coroner is critical of doctor over the death of patient, 78

The family of a retired aerospace engineer who died after a "catalogue of disasters" in hospital say they are bitterly disappointed the doctors responsible have not been disciplined.

Western Daily Press South West - United Kingdom - 08/02/2011

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](#)

Source: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/health/local-health/doctor-asks-to-be-removed-from-register-1-2383734>

Doctor asks to be removed from register



Dr Jane Barton

Code A

05:00 Saturday 05 February 2011

THE doctor at the centre of an inquiry into patients' deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital has asked to be removed from the medical register.

Dr Jane Barton has applied to the General Medical Council (GMC) to have her name removed from the register, which would mean she would no longer be able to practise as a GP in the UK.

ADVERTISING

It comes after a GMC hearing last year found she prescribed 'excessive' drugs to elderly patients but decided not to remove her from the register and instead placed conditions on her licence. Relatives of patients who died at the hospital under Dr Barton's care have since been asked to give their views on her asking to be removed from the register.

But families are confused about why the GP, who last year retired from Forton Medical Centre in Gosport, has chosen to make the request now.

Iain Wilson, whose 74-year-old father Robert died at the hospital in 1998, said: 'It's very strange – why has she done this out of the blue? Why couldn't she have done it before?

'Of course I'm pleased that she's doing this, she's doing what the GMC should have done a long time ago.

'I'm concerned as to her reasons though.'

Gillian MacKenzie, whose 91-year-old mother Gladys Richards died at the hospital in 1998, said: 'Of course they should remove her. She probably hopes this will earn her some brownie points.'

The GMC has to decide whether or not Dr Barton should be removed from the register – which doctors have to pay hundreds of pounds to be on.

But Mr Wilson said: 'What concerns me is that it would only mean she can't practise in the UK, but she would be free to practise in other countries.

'Maybe that's her plan, to go elsewhere.'