

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 26 August 2009 09:19
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 26 August 2009

Press Cuttings Summary

Wednesday 26 August 2009

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

The Western Mail features news of the GMP in action website, following a press release issued by the media team.



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The following fitness to practise cases continue to generate local and national coverage:

- **Code A**
- Dr Jane Barton (also mentioned on BMJ online: http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/339/aug25_3/b3459)

Code A forthcoming fitness to practise case is mentioned online at the Nottingham Evening Post: <http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/news/City-GP-faces-hearing-fat-jab/article-1283456-detail/article.html>

The Daily Telegraph, The Times and The Guardian report on developments in the case of Tom Williams, the Harlequins rugby player who allegedly deceived match officials in relation to a faked mouth injury. Williams has said that one of the match-day doctors, **Code A**, cut the inside of his mouth to add credibility to the 'injury' when he requested that she do so, despite concerns for her own career. Williams is reported as saying, 'I would like to emphasise that, **Code A** was as much a victim in all this as me. I do not believe she had any knowledge that the fake injury was going to take place.' All articles note that the doctor could face a potential GMC hearing.

The story is also reported online at the Irish Times, and on UTV online:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/sport/2009/0826/1224253269778.html>

<http://new.u.tv/Sport/Tom-Williams-admits-he-asked-for-doctor-to-cut-his-lip-to-corroborate-blood-injury-claims/e3710a0a-b6e3-4637-8bcf-9d5c3cd51c89>

The Newry Democrat reports on the case of Dr Liam Farrell, who intends to plead guilty in court to separate charges of unlawfully possessing class A substances. The article notes the doctor's current registration status with the GMC.



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Broadcast Mentions

There have been several regional mentions of **Code A** fitness to practise hearing.

Times Letters page and GMC published responses

There are no letters to note today.

Other News

The Daily Express reports that a patient is seeking compensation after he was told that a routine appendectomy had been successful, although doctors had not removed his appendix. He was re-admitted to hospital 'in agony' for a second appendectomy, and a third admission to hospital due to infection was also necessary.

Headlines:

GMC

Liverpool Daily Post

Delivery date : 25/08/2009

Number of words : 100

GP accused of patient drugs threat for sex

Code A threatened to withhold drugs from a depressed patient if she refused to have sex with him, the General Medical Council has heard.

GMC

Yorkshire Post

Delivery date : 25/08/2009

Number of words : 330

GP 'threatened to stop drugs if patient refused sex'

A doctor threatened to withhold drugs from a depressed patient if she refused to have sex with him. **Code A** is also accused of harassing a female employee, known as Miss C, after their consensual affair ended, the GMC heard.

Miscellaneous

Daily Express

Delivery date : 26/08/2009

Number of words : 84

Double appendix op agony

A patient is seeking compensation after an operation to remove his appendix - only to find it was still there a month later. Mark Wattson, 35, had the "successful" surgery on July 7 at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon, Wilts. But on August 7 he had to be re-admitted in agony for a second appendectomy. The hospital has apologised and is investigating.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 22/08/2009

Number of words : 56

I will not give up

Comment: "In view of the GMC findings regarding Dr Jane Barton, I still am waiting for an apology from Sir Peter Viggers and I will not give up until I get one from him and an apology to all the families of the victims of Gosport War Memorial Hospital."

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 22/08/2009

Number of words : 950

PATIENT BY PATIENT - WHAT THE GMC PANEL RULED

Under an article entitled "War Memorial doctor to hear her fate early in new year" is a panel of photographs and potted medical histories of patients treated by the accused Dr Barton, headed "Patient by patient - what the GMC panel ruled." In one case, "strong sedatives she prescribed were inappropriate due to his alcohol-related liver disease." Allegations centred on the Dryad and Daedalus wards at Gosport War Memorial.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 22/08/2009

Number of words : 441

War Memorial doctor to hear her fate early in new year

The doctor at the centre of elderly patient deaths at a hospital could face harsh consequences for her actions, even if she is not struck off. A damning report by the Commission for Health Improvement highlighted "serious concerns" about the prescribing of drugs at the hospital. A General Medical Council disciplinary panel has a choice of five sanctions if they find Jane Barton's fitness to practise is impaired.

GMC

Wrexham Evening Leader

Delivery date : 25/08/2009

Number of words : 1

24/08: Killer doctor faces quiz on overdoses

A doctor who accidentally killed a grandmother is due to appear before a GMC panel over care of patients.

GMC

Daily Express

Delivery date : 26/08/2009

Number of words : 125

Painkiller ordeal for builder

A builder stopped breathing moments after he was given a painkilling drug by a GP. A General Medical Council panel was told yesterday how Code A 57, from Bootle, Cumbria, gave the patient six times the correct dose of diamorphine and he suffered a respiratory arrest. The patient later made a full recovery.

GMC

Daily Express

Delivery date : 26/08/2009

Number of words : 860

GP 'had affairs with three patients as his marriage crumbled'

A GP began a string of affairs after being warned he was getting "too intimate" with patients about his crumbling marriage, a medical tribunal heard yesterday.

GMC

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 26/08/2009

Number of words : 699

Married GP's 'affair with 17-year-old acne patient'

A married doctor forced a teenage girl he was treating for acne and a bad back to perform a sex act on him at his surgery, a medical tribunal heard yesterday.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 26/08/2009

Number of words : 444

GP 'told his depressed patient he'd help her to feel sexy'

A patient of doctor Code A 48, broke down in tears as she told a disciplinary panel how he had exploited her reliance on tranquillisers and anti-depressants.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Source: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/war-memorial-doctor-to-hear-her-fate-early-in-new-year-1-1237871>

War Memorial doctor to hear her fate early in new year

22:15 Friday 21 August 2009

The doctor at the centre of elderly patient deaths at a hospital could face harsh consequences for her actions – even if she is not struck off.

A General Medical Council disciplinary panel has a choice of five sanctions if they find Jane Barton's fitness to practise is impaired.

ADVERTISING

Dr Barton – pictured right – has admitted a string of allegations relating to her care and treatment of 12 patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1996 and 1999.

The News reported yesterday that following a 10-week hearing the five-strong panel has found her guilty of prescribing 'potentially hazardous' doses of powerful painkillers and sedatives to patients on Dryad and Daedalus wards where she was clinical assistant.

Examining the GP's conduct they also found wide dose ranges she prescribed could have led to some patients being overdosed.

They said she was guilty of poor note-keeping and prescribing drugs that were inappropriate and not in the best interests of some patients.

The panel has now adjourned and will reconvene in January.

They will then hear legal submissions relating to 220 charges proved and then decide whether those findings amount to serious professional misconduct by Dr Barton.

The panel will then decide what sanctions – if any – should be imposed.

It has already found evidence 'would not be insufficient' to support her being found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

A General Medical Council spokesman said: 'If the panel concludes that the doctor's fitness to practise is impaired, the following sanctions are available – to take no action, to accept

undertakings offered by the doctor provided the panel is satisfied that such undertakings protect patients and the wider public interest, to place conditions on the doctor's registration, to suspend the doctor's registration or to erase the doctor's name from the medical register, so that they can no longer practise.'

Dr Barton – who denies serious professional misconduct – is subject to seven restrictions on her license imposed after the General Medical Council launched its investigation in July last year.

They include a ban on prescribing the powerful painkiller diamorphine.