

Code A

46924658

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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 31 March 2010 09:32  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 31 March 2010  
**Attachments:** Picture (Metafile); Picture (Metafile)

Press Cuttings Summary  
 Wednesday 31 March 2010

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

BMJ Careers examines how role models can influence medical students' professionalism and what constitutes a good role model. The article references the GMC's Duties of a Doctor guidance:  
<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20000868>

BMJ Careers also looks at the issue of when a doctor needs to end a professional relationship with a patient. GMC guidance on the subject, stating that doctors should justify their decision to remove a patient from their practice list, is quoted:

<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20000869>

Fitness to practise

News that Dr Jane Barton has retired from her job at Forton Medical Centre, Gosport is reported in both local and national media. Dr Barton was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and had conditions imposed on her registration by a fitness to practise panel in January this year.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/doctor-at-centre-of-deaths-probe-at-gosport-war-memorial-hospital-retires-1931239.html>

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-south-east-news/Doctor-at-centre-of-deaths.6190843.jp>

<http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/newshome/Gosport-hospital-deaths-case-GP.6190353.jp>

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/21/20100330/thl-doctor-guilty-of-misconduct-retires-d831572.html>

The following cases are mentioned in local print media:

**Code A** (case has adjourned)  
**Code A** (erased from the register)

Broadcast Mentions

BBC1 South reports that the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence will today announce its decision about whether to appeal the GMC's decision to place conditions on Dr Jane Barton's registration.

There was further coverage yesterday afternoon on ITV Anglia West about **Code A** call for greater regulation of EU trained doctors, mentioning that the GMC supports his "campaign". **Code A** father David died following treatment by **Code A**.

BBC Radio Scotland reported yesterday on the Liberal Democrat Robert Brown's call for Accident and Emergency doctors to share information about stabbings with the police. One doctor notes that there is GMC guidance on this issue.

Letters pages

A reader writes to the Daily Mail, expressing confusion about the Government's 'reluctance' to test the English-language ability of European-qualified medical staff, when air traffic controllers have to pass a proficiency test in English in order to work.

#### Other News

A study by the National Patient Safety Agency has found that patients' health was jeopardised as doctors failed to spot key signs of cancer over the period of a year (The Guardian). [Code A] Chair of the Royal College of GPs, is quoted in the article, saying that, 'GPs do care and do try hard and it's difficult to diagnose cancer. However, this report emphasises again that we can and should do better.'

The Evening Standard and The Guardian report that the partner of a woman who died after repeated calls to out of hours service Camidoc has criticised a decision by four London health trusts to renew the firm's contract.

#### Headlines:

#### GMC

##### Colchester Gazette

Delivery date : 30/03/2010

Number of words : 185

Doctor's mole case to be reheard

A doctor accused of inappropriately removing five moles from a schoolgirl's back and chest will face a fresh hearing after the case was halted.

#### Doctors

##### Daily Mail

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 63

Test doctors' English

Reader's letters: "I can't understand the Government's reluctance to require all foreign medical staff to undergo a test of proficiency in the English language."

#### Doctors

##### Evening Standard

Delivery date : 30/03/2010

Number of words : 129

Bereaved partner 'dismayed' over GP firm's new contract The partner of a woman who died despite repeated calls to an out-of-hours GP service criticised today a decision to renew the firm's contract. [Code A] 43, said he was "completely dismayed" by a move to allow private company Camidoc to run services. Journalist [Code A] died at Easter in 2005 after suffering multiple organ failure caused by septicaemia. In the four days before her death, [Code A] had six telephone consultations and two face-to-face appointments with Camidoc doctors.

#### GMC

##### South London Press

Delivery date : 30/03/2010

Number of words : 288

GP who failed to spot pregnancy struck off A bungling GP who told a woman her breast cancer was "nothing to worry about" has been struck off by the General Medical Council.

## Colleges &amp; Regulators

The Guardian

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 787

Thousands threatened by cancer blunders Mistakes by GPs, hospital doctors and nurses jeopardised the health of thousands of patients when cancer was misdiagnosed or not identified soon enough, according to a NHS report.

## Doctors

The Guardian

Delivery date : 31/03/2010

Number of words : 377

Anger over new contract for out-of-hours GP service criticised after patient's death An out-of-hours GP service criticised following a patient's death from undiagnosed blood poisoning has been awarded a fresh contract to provide cover in north London.

## GMC

The News

Delivery date : 30/03/2010

Number of words : 219

Hospital deaths probe dates back 12 years The Gosport War Memorial case dates back to 1998. Since then there have been numerous police inquiries into various deaths, although the CPS decided not to take cases to court. Then in April last year an inquest was held in Portsmouth into the deaths of five patients under the care of Dr Barton. Following the inquest the General Medical Council held a hearing into Dr Barton's fitness to practise.

## GMC

The News

Delivery date : 30/03/2010

Number of words : 473

Families of hospital dead welcome under fire GP's retirement The GP at the centre of patients' deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital has retired.

## Web links:

National Newspapers: Other Regular Newspapers: Medical Press:

The Times The Scotsman Pulse

The Independent The Herald BMJ

The Guardian The Press &amp; Journal HSJ

The Daily Telegraph The Manchester Evening News The Lancet

The Daily Mail Irish News

The Daily Mirror Belfast Telegraph

The Daily Express News Letter

The Sun South Wales Echo

The Financial Times South Wales Evening Post

Online Media: Western Mail  
The BBC  
Channel 4  
Sky

The Press Cuttings Website

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General Medical Council

3 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AW

Regents Place, 350 Euston Road, London, NW1 3JN

The Tun, 4 Jacksons Entry, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AE

Regus House, Falcon Drive, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4RU

9th Floor, Bedford House, 16-22 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FD

The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SC037750)

Source: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/gosport-hospital-deaths-case-gp-dr-jane-barton-to-retire-1-1253253>

## Gosport hospital deaths case GP Dr Jane Barton to retire

15:26 Tuesday 30 March 2010

### **The GP at the centre of patients' deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital has retired.**

Dr Jane Barton was found guilty of multiple instances of serious professional misconduct relating to 12 patients who died at the Bury Road hospital.

But despite a panel ruling she could still pose a risk to patients, she was not struck off.

Now, two months after the General Medical Council's (GMC) decision, Dr Barton has decided to retire from Forton Medical Centre in Gosport.

NHS Hampshire has confirmed her resignation from the practice, although her patients are yet to receive official confirmation.

Although she has resigned, she is still registered as a GP and therefore could choose to practise again under the conditions imposed on her licence.

Families of some of the elderly people who died on the Dryad and Daedalus wards between 1996 and 1999 when Dr Barton was clinical assistant, have welcomed the news but say they will still continue their fight for justice.

Iain Wilson, whose 74-year-old father, Brian, died on Dryad ward in October 1998, said: 'I personally think it's good news for patients, because at the end of the day, we've got to have faith in our doctors and be able to trust them.'

But her retiring is not punishment. She should have been struck off.

'It's also not good news that she's still registered and could teach elsewhere.'

'At the moment, for all intents and purposes, she's got away with what she did.'

'And with retiring she'll still get her pension. She's not lost out by doing this.'

'But we'll carry on our fight for justice.'

Gillian Mackenzie, whose 91-year-old mother Gladys Richards died at the hospital in 1998, said: 'Her retiring is the wisest decision she could have made.'

'But I don't think she had any option.'

She added: 'If anyone thinks this is the end of the affair they are very much mistaken.'

'We won't give up.'

During the GMC hearing in January the panel ruled that some of Dr Barton's prescriptions of powerful drugs were 'excessive' as well as being 'inappropriate, potentially hazardous and not in patients' best interests'.

But after a 10-week hearing the panel decided that placing 11 conditions on the GP's licence for three years was an adequate sanction.

But the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence is reviewing that decision, considering whether or not it was too lenient.

It is expected to make a decision by the end of this week and could refer the case to the High Court.

Meanwhile, families of patients who died at the Gosport hospital are still pursuing a criminal prosecution.

They are waiting to hear from the CPS if a case can be brought against Dr Barton.

War Memorial inquiry dates back 12 years

The Gosport War Memorial case dates back to 1998.

Since then there have been numerous police inquiries into various deaths, although the CPS decided not to take cases to court.

Then in April last year an inquest was held in Portsmouth into the deaths of five patients under the care of Dr Barton.

A jury ruled drugs prescribed by the GP contributed to the deaths of Elsie Devine, 88, Elsie Lavender, 83, Robert Wilson, 74, Brian Cunningham, 79, and Geoffrey Packman, 68.

In the cases of Geoffrey Packman, Elsie Devine and Robert Wilson drugs prescribed were not appropriate for their conditions.

Following the inquest the General Medical Council held a hearing into Dr Barton's fitness to practise. She was found guilty of 'multiple instances of serious professional misconduct' relating to 12 patients who died at the hospital.

The panel said it was 'unable to accept that she no longer posed any risk to patients'.

It ruled some of her drug dose ranges were too wide and meant patients could be over-medicated. But after a 10-week hearing and a week of deliberations, the five-strong panel decided to place 11 conditions on Dr Barton's licence - including a ban on prescribing or administering opiates by injection and undertaking palliative care.

The panel decided she should not be struck off.

# Doctor at centre of deaths probe at Gosport War Memorial Hospital retires

- By Ben Mitchell, Press Association
- Sunday 23 October 2011
- 0 comments

The doctor at the centre of a probe into deaths at a community hospital is to retire, a health trust confirmed today.

Dr Jane Barton was found guilty of serious professional misconduct by a Fitness to Practise Panel at the General Medical Council (GMC) earlier this year.

## ADVERTISING

The ruling was made after an investigation into a series of failings in her care of 12 patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Hampshire between January 1996 and November 1999.

The panel found she made a catalogue of failings in her treatment of the patients, who later died, including issuing drugs which were "excessive, inappropriate and potentially hazardous".

The doctor's series of failings included making inadequate examinations of patients, failing to consult colleagues and poor note-keeping.

But instead of being struck off she was given a list of 11 conditions relating to her practice, including not being able to administer opiates by injection.

She has continued to work as a GP at the Forton Medical Centre, Gosport, but has now given in her notice of retirement.



A spokeswoman for NHS Hampshire said: "I can confirm that Dr Barton has given her notice but we cannot comment on her personal reasons for doing so."

Mike Porter, head of practice at Forton Medical Centre, said that Dr Barton's final day of employment will be tomorrow but she stopped working two weeks ago having taken her annual leave entitlement.

He added that he understood that Dr Barton, who is now 60, did not intend to return to work as a doctor.

He said: "We are sorry to see her go, she was very well supported by the doctors and the staff here.

"As far as I am aware, Jane has retired and that is it. When GPs retire they have the option to come back to work at the same practice but she has not asked us to come back."

Families of some of those who died at the hospital reacted with disgust at the GMC ruling which is currently being reviewed by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) which monitors the work of health regulatory bodies.

Iain Wilson, 51, from Gosport, whose 74-year-old father Robert Wilson was one of the patients, said that Dr Barton's retirement left several questions unanswered.

He said: "We do not know if she has retired from just her practice or from the medical profession, it just means that she can start up somewhere else.

"If she is retiring from the profession that will safeguard a lot of old people.

"It is just unfortunate that she retires on a full pension and her retirement is not a punishment, she should have been struck off."

In their ruling, the GMC panel noted that Dr Barton appeared unrepentant and that she still insisted that her actions in the circumstances at the time were correct.

Dr Barton said in a statement released after the GMC hearing: "Anyone following this case carefully will know that I was faced with an excessive and increasing burden in trying to care for patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

"I did the best I could for my patients in the circumstances until finally I had no alternative but to resign."

The 12 patients were Robert Wilson, 74, Eva Page, 87, Alice Wilkie, 81, Gladys Richards, 91, Leslie Pittock, 82, Elsie Lavender, 83, Ruby Lake, 84, Enid Spurgeon, 92, Geoffrey Packman, 67, Elsie Devine, 88, Arthur Cunningham, 79, and Jean Stevens, 73.

The GMC hearing followed an inquest held at Portsmouth which recorded verdicts that drugs had been a factor in five deaths at the hospital.