

Code A

59809130

From: Code A
Sent: 19 April 2013 09:10
To: Code A
Subject: Daily Media Summary - Friday 19 April 2013
Attachments: Financial Times 17 Apr.pdf

General
Medical
Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

ALL COVERAGE

[All Articles](#)

DIRECT MENTIONS / TOP STORIES

MAKE JUDGEMENT BASED ON CLINICAL EVIDENCE

Doctors need more support for CPD

Anaesthesia, 16/04/13

New research from the General Medical Council (GMC) suggests that employers need to do more to support all doctors in their professional development.

[Link](#)

Time Major Factor Preventing Doctors Pursuing CPD

Commissioning GP, 16/04/13

Doctors are not being given the required support to help them with continuing professional development (CPD), affecting patient care.

[Link](#)

I'd like to make a complaint...(But what's the best way to do it?)

Daily Express, 19/04/2013, p. 33, Nathan Rao

An article giving tips on how to get the right customer service and make complaints. Advice is given that, in connection with doctors and medical practitioners as service providers, 'the General Medical Council is sometimes the best port of call if there is an issue with a doctor.'

[Article](#)

Hospital accused of not doing enough to report cases of knife crime

The Gazette (Colchester), 18/04/2013, p. 13, Caroline Tilley

Colchester General Hospital has been criticised by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston, for not taking steps to report knife crime sufficiently. A Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust spokesman said: 'We follow guidance from the General Medical Council.'

[Article](#)

Why does a gap between rich and poor matter?

Telegraph (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Jake Wallis Simons

Blog comment: The gap between rich and poor. You hear that phrase a lot. The gap between rich and poor. Let's make no bones about it: economic inequality can be pernicious and damaging. This week Dame Suzi Leather pointed out that there is "a 12.6-year gap in life expectancy between rich areas and poor areas" of the city. In modern Britain, this is shocking.

[Article](#)

Party people

Daily Mail, 19/04/2013, p. 64, Unattributed

Letter: Dame Suzi Leather is mentioned in connection with the possible 'politicisation of supposedly apolitical bodies'.

[Article](#)

Commission to address unfairness in city life

Western Morning News (Devon), 18/04/2013, p. 15, Jenny Awford

Dame Suzi Leather is to chair a new Fairness Commission that has been set up in Plymouth with the mission of driving out inequality. During the year long project consultation will take place with community members about how to make Plymouth a fairer city.

[Article](#)

Do we need evidence based practice in the pre-hospital setting?

AmbulanceUK, 02/04/2013, p. 7, Unattributed

An article uses a case study approach to discuss whether evidence based practice in the pre-hospital setting is necessary. In connection with a given case, it is mentioned that: 'It is clear, within the legal-medical framework that this patient's fundamental rights must be respected when reaching a decision on treatment (GMC 2009).

[Article](#)

Prescribing outside of a drug's licence: issues and implications

Prescriber, 05/04/2013, p. 27, Alison Chisholm

An article looks at the issues and implications of prescribing outside of a drug's licence. An emphasis is put on the issues involving the prescribing of bevacizumab in wet AMD. It is mentioned that the GMC has recently published updated guidance.

[Article](#)

FITNESS TO PRACTISE

Careless mistakes led to dad's death

Scunthorpe Telegraph, 18/04/2013, p. 28, Unattributed

Letter: Wendy Booth, director of clinical and quality assurance at Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust, has admitted - in response to a letter - that the care of a patient who died at Scunthorpe Hospital fell below the expected standards. It is mentioned that the GMC advised that procedures should be updated in connection with the case.

[Article](#)

CLOSED HEARING FOR ACCUSED DOCTOR

Press Association, 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

Belfast psychiatrist Dr Paul Miller, a former health adviser to ex-Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MP Iris Robinson, is alleged to have taken, or attempted to have taken, financial advantage of a patient on a number of occasions between 2004 and 2010. The General Medical Council, which brought the case against Dr Miller, successfully applied for the entire hearing in Manchester to proceed in private.

[Article](#)

MLA baffled why probe of Iris 'gay cure' doctor is being held in secret

Belfast Telegraph Evening, 19/04/2013, p. 26, by Kim Pilling

[Article](#)

Fitness to practise inquiry halted

Irish Times (Web), 19/04/2013, p. 9, Unattributed

[Article](#)

'Gay cure' therapist hearing to be held in private

NewsLetter (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

A fitness-to-practise hearing for a doctor accused of improper financial dealings will be held behind closed doors.

[Article](#)

Closed hearing for accused doctor

Tyrone Times (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

A fitness-to-practise hearing for a doctor accused of improper financial dealings will be held behind closed doors. Belfast psychiatrist Dr Paul Miller, a former health adviser to ex-Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) MP Iris Robinson, is alleged to have taken, or attempted to have taken, financial advantage of a patient on a number of occasions between 2004 and 2010. The General Medical Council, which brought the case against Dr Miller, successfully applied for the entire hearing in Manchester to proceed in private.

[Article](#)

Shocked by trainee GP's behaviour

Surrey Advertiser (Guildford), 12/04/2013, p. 1, Unattributed

A fitness to practise panel of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service has heard how a trainee doctor, Andriy Denezh, accused his boss, Dr Andrew Cross, of playing 'Russian roulette' with a child's life, and that he sent offensive

emails to colleagues. Dr Denezh is denying that his fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

[Article](#)

Doc 'used trust' to bed patient

Midweek Sport, 17/04/2013, p. 15, Unattributed

Mr Ben Fitzgerald for the GMC, for the GMC, said that Dr Jonathan Beacon 'used his trust and responsibility to develop and pursue an emotional and sexual relationship' with a patient, who became his mistress.

[Article](#)

GP 'wanted payments for locums that were not needed' Doctor falsely claimed , hearing is told £12,

Express & Star (Wolverhampton), 16/04/2013, p. 14, Shaun Jepson

It is related that a misconduct hearing heard how GP Dr Kirsten Guest falsely claimed more than Â£12,000 in expenses for locum doctors who were not necessary, and billed the Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust for staff to cover her when she was away on other duties. The General Medical Council is alleging the conduct was dishonest and misleading.

[Article](#)

Drunk doc can work

Stirling Observer & Shopper, 19/04/2013, p. 7, Gregor White

Dr Andrew Woods, a consultant anaesthetist with NHS Forth Valley, has been found fit to work after being referred to the General Medical Council following his removal from an operating theatre for being drunk in September 2009. A spokesperson for NHS Forth Valley said: "At the latest Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service review held in April 2013, a private hearing was conducted during which the conditions on Dr Woods' registration were reviewed and updated. The Panel imposed a number of conditions to be placed on his registration to practice for a period of 24 months."

[Article](#)

MEDICATION 'A FACTOR' IN DEATH CASE

Press Association, 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

A coroner has ruled that medication given to an elderly patient at a heavily-criticised hospital contributed "more than insignificantly" to her death... The seven-day inquest heard that Dr Jane Barton, who has previously been found guilty by the General Medical Council (GMC) of professional misconduct at GWMH, had prescribed levels of diamorphine for the nursing staff to administer in case Mrs Richards' condition deteriorated.

[Article](#)

Daughters' fight for truth has taken 15 years

The News (Portsmouth), 18/04/2013, p. 20, Unattributed

An article looks at the case of Gladys Richards, who died at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1998 while under the care of Dr Jane Barton, the doctor who was linked to a number of deaths at the hospital. It is mentioned that Dr Barton retired in early 2010, and after a year applied to GMC to have her name removed from the register.

[Article](#)

Two million children at risk of measles

The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 1, Laura Donnelly

[Article](#)

MMR, the media and the medical profession

The Times, 19/04/2013, p. 29, Unattributed

Letters in connection with the responsibility for the mistakes surrounding MMR jabs. Dr Derek Stanesby writes that: "The main culprit in this sorry saga was the media, which in its rush to sensationalise and its poor understanding of matters scientific, confused and misled the public. The General Medical Council inquiry, which took some three years and cost well over Â£1 million, nearly ruined the careers of two outstanding doctors caring for profoundly sick children and ignored the distress of parents who were practically at the end of their tether. Two of the doctors, after this overlong inquiry, were subsequently exonerated."

[Article](#)

'Authorities need to get tougher on bad science'

Financial Times, 17/04/2013

This articles references Code A Fitness to Practise hearing that saw him erased from the medical register and looks at the wider implications for children's health in the UK when homeopaths cited Wakefield's discredited research to further their own views. See attached article.

MAKE JUDGEMENT BASED ON CLINICAL EVIDENCE

Peterlee Star, 17/04/2013, p. 32, Unattributed

Comment: David Taylor-Gooby, a Lay Member of the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Commissioning Group,

considers the measles outbreak in South Wales and the problems at the Leeds General Infirmary. He says: "Code A published an article in the Lancet based on research suggesting there was a connection between the vaccine and autism which the press seized on. The research was later dismissed by the General Medical Council, but the damage had been done."

[Article](#)

Doctor entitled to rely on GMC's assurance that his Caribbean qualification would be acceptable in UK

UK Human Rights (Blog), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

Patel, R(on the application of) v The General Medical Council [2013] EWCA Civ 327 - read judgment: The appellant, a qualified pharmacist, wished to qualify as a doctor. He sought assurances from the GMC that his part time course with a medical school in St Kitts, affiliated with the London College of Medicine, would lead to an acceptable qualification.

[Article](#)

Tunnel vision

Private Client Adviser (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

Practitioners must be confident when discussing the non-financial aspects of end-of-life planning with clients, particularly when they want to avert the Liverpool Care Pathway, says Carol McBride. The first problem with refusing the LCP is that it is designed to provide basic care to keep the patient comfortable: warmth, shelter, actions to keep a person clean and the offer of food and water by mouth, which the MCA Code of Practice states patients cannot refuse. The second difficulty is that although patients can make a valid refusal of treatment (that is any competent patient can refuse an active measure, such as artificial ventilation), since the case of R (on the application of Burke) v General Medical Council [2004] EWHC 1879 (Admin), patients cannot insist on receiving a particular form of treatment.

[Article](#)

MID STAFFORDSHIRE INQUIRY

Nurses fear their hospital 'will be next Mid Staffs'

The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 10, Laura Donnelly

[Article](#)

NHS regulator wants 'swift change'

BBC (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

[Article](#)

All patients in NHS hospitals should have one doctor in overall charge of their care, says Robert Francis QC

Mail Online UK (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Mark Duell

[Article](#)

CQC to search for patient feedback on GPs using Facebook and Twitter

Pulse Today (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

[Article](#)

Health minister told of man's contaminated blood

Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 18/04/2013, p. 2, Unattributed

[Article](#)

How medical information can lead to arguments rather than solutions

Evening News (Norwich), 18/04/2013, p. 46, Ian Gibson

[Article](#)

Putting Patients First -Government publishes response to Francis Report

The Operating Theatre Journal, 01/04/2013, p. 3, Unattributed

In response to the Francis Inquiry, Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, has announced that the quality of patient care is to be put at the heart of the NHS. It is mentioned that the 'General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the other professional regulators have been asked to tighten and speed up their procedures for breaches of professional standards'.

[Article](#)

OTHER NEWS

More than 1,200 people with a learning disability die of avoidable causes*guardian.co.uk (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Carers 'threw cushions' at disabled patient***The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 6, Sam Marsden*[Article](#)**£8.5m compensation for brain damaged boy***The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 11, Unattributed*[Article](#)**£8.5m for birth blunder Alfie, 7***Metro, 19/04/2013, p. 33, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Dozing doctor free to carry on working***St Helen's Reporter, 17/04/2013, p. 26, Chrisamery*[Article](#)**Family's complaint over cancer diagnosis delay***The News (Portsmouth), 18/04/2013, p. 20, Ben Fishwick*[Article](#)**Mother convicted of killing baby son is freed after judge calls witness 'a quack'***The Times (Scotland)*, 19/04/2013, p. 6, Scotland Staff*[Article](#)**Murder trial relied on 'quack' doctor***The Daily Telegraph (Scotland)*, 19/04/2013, p. 2, Auslan Cramb*[Article](#)**Baby's insulin levels 'very high'***Press and Journal, 19/04/2013, p. 3, Rebecca Buchan*[Article](#)**A catalogue of errors***Paisley Daily Express, 19/04/2013, p. 4, Brian Horne*[Article](#)**Half of paediatric consultants would not take part in shift working***BMJ Careers (Web), 18/04/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Buckhaven GP raises fears***East Fife Mail, 17/04/2013, p. 11, Maggie Millar*[Article](#)**NHS trust rated worst in country***Croydon Guardian, 17/04/2013, p. 5, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Joint Surgery***The Times, 19/04/2013, p. 2, Unattributed*[Article](#)**New fight in right-to-die campaign***The Times, 19/04/2013, p. 6, Lucy Bannerman, Frances Gibb*[Article](#)**THUNDER***The Times, 19/04/2013, p. 26, Sarah Wootton*[Article](#)**Cancer survival chances depend on where patients live**

The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 12, Laura Donnelly

[Article](#)

How postcode lottery affects chances of cancer survival

Daily Express, 19/04/2013, p. 4, Jo Willey

[Article](#)

NHS to appeal in hospital row

The Journal (Newcastle Upon Tyne), 19/04/2013, p. 6, Harry Preston

[Article](#)

Mechanics find body in mortuary van left at garage for repair

The Scotsman, 19/04/2013, p. 20, Frank Urquhart

[Article](#)

Somebody has to pay the price of health tourism

The Daily Telegraph, 19/04/2013, p. 19, Unattributed

[Article](#)

Precise.

Coverage is reproduced under license from the NLA, CLA or other copyright owner. No further copying (including the printing of digital cuttings), digital reproduction or forwarding is permitted except under licence from the NLA, <http://www.nla.co.uk> (for newspapers) CLA, <http://www.cla.co.uk> (for books & magazines) or other copyright body.

Source: http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/10362104.Medication_a_factor_in_pensioner_s_hospital_death_coroner_rules/?ref=rss

Coroner rules medication a factor in pensioner Gladys Richards' death at Gosport War Memorial Hospital



[Emma Streatfield](#), Senior Reporter / Wednesday 17 April 2013 / [News](#)

A CORONER has ruled that medication given to an elderly patient at a heavily-criticised Hampshire hospital contributed "more than insignificantly" to her death.

Gladys Richards, 91, was taken to the [Gosport](#) War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) in August 1998 for recuperation following a hip operation after she had a fall.

She had a second fall and had to be transferred to another hospital for the hip to be manipulated back into place before she was returned to the GWMH.

She then suffered a haematoma, and Mrs Richards, of [Lee-on-the-Solent](#), was given diamorphine administered through a syringe driver. She died four days later on August 21, 1998, the hearing was told.

Her daughters, Gillian Mackenzie and Lesley O'Brien, have campaigned for several years for a full inquest to be held into her death.

Mrs Mackenzie, 79, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, has questioned during the Portsmouth inquest whether the medical staff operated a policy of euthanasia and has accused the staff of "condemning" her mother to death through the palliative medication prescribed.

David Horsley, coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, ruled that the cause of death was bronchopneumonia.

ADVERTISING

In a narrative verdict, he added: "Factors contributing more than insignificantly to her death due to bronchopneumonia were:

"Accidental falls which she sustained at Glen Heathers Nursing Home in Lee-on-the-Solent on the 29th July, 1998 and at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on August 13, 1998.

"Procedures undertaken at Haslar Hospital, Gosport to treat the injuries she suffered as a result of those falls.

"Her immobility subsequent to those procedures.

"Medication administered to her at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for the control of her pain and agitation.

"Her old age, frailty and end-stage dementia."

Mrs O'Brien, a qualified nurse, said after the hearing that she was disappointed by the coroner's verdict.

She said: "It is obviously extremely disappointing after all this time.

"I felt some of the evidence given lent him to only be able to give that verdict."

The seven-day inquest heard that Dr Jane Barton, who has previously been found guilty by the General Medical Council (GMC) of professional misconduct at GWMH, had prescribed levels of diamorphine for the nursing staff to administer in case Mrs Richards' condition deteriorated.

She also wrote on the patient notes that she was happy for the nursing staff to certify death.

But Dr Barton told the hearing that she "proactively prescribed" the medication because "the probability was her condition would deteriorate rather than improve".

But she said the higher levels of the prescription were only to be used in the situation that her condition did deteriorate.

She added: "She was in the end stage of dementia, she was likely to die in weeks or months from the dementia before the hip fracture intervened."

Dr Barton said that she believed that Mrs Richards' condition had deteriorated when she returned to the GWMH for the second time on August 17, requiring higher levels of painkillers.

She said: "I am saying when she arrived back on the 17th she was dying."

A previous inquest, specially authorised by then justice secretary Jack Straw, was held in 2009 into the deaths of 10 other patients at the same hospital all in the late 1990s.

The jury found that medication had contributed to the deaths of five patients and three of these had been given "unsuitable medication".

The GMC has also ruled that Dr Barton, who has since retired, was guilty of multiple instances of professional misconduct relating to 12 patients who died at the hospital.

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

Share article

The failings included inadequate examinations of patients, failing to consult colleagues and poor note-keeping.

Hampshire police previously conducted a criminal investigation into the deaths of 92 elderly patients at GWMH but no prosecutions were brought.

Source: <http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/health/local-health/family-unhappy-at-verdict-on-woman-s-death-at-gosport-hospital-1-5008910>

Family unhappy at verdict on woman's death at Gosport hospital

08:49 Thursday 18 April 2013

THE family of a pensioner who died in hospital have criticised a coroner's verdict at the inquest into her death.

Gladys Richards of Lee-on-the-Solent died in Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) on August 21, 1998, after being taken there to recover from a hip operation at the Royal Hospital, Haslar.

ADVERTISING

Solicitors acting on her daughter Gillian Mackenzie's behalf had asked coroner David Horsley to return a verdict of unlawful killing based on the alleged gross negligence of the staff at GWMH, who had Mrs Richards under their care at the time.

Mrs Mackenzie claimed that the decision to switch to palliative care, which she says was unnecessary, hastened her mother's death. Mrs Richards was put on a machine to give diamorphine, and her family was told death was imminent.

At the end of the eight-day inquest, Mr Horsley, coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire recorded a narrative verdict.

He said: 'Mrs Richards' death was due to bronchopneumonia.

Mr Horsley said factors contributing 'more than insignificantly' to her death due to bronchopneumonia were:

n Accidental falls which she sustained at Glen Heathers Nursing Home in Lee-on-the-Solent on the 29th July, 1998 and at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on August 13, 1998.

n Procedures undertaken at Haslar Hospital, Gosport to treat the injuries she suffered as a result of those falls.

n Her immobility subsequent to those procedures.

n Medication administered to her at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for the control of her pain and agitation

n Her old age, frailty and end-stage dementia.

Mrs Mackenzie, 79, said: 'I find it extraordinary that my mother was in the end stages of dementia.

'When she came around from the initial operation at Haslar, my sister was standing at the end of the bed saying: "Open your eyes mother," and I was sitting by her side stroking her hand.

'My sister asked if she knew who I was, she said "Of course I do, it's Gill".

'If you are in the end stages of dementia, you don't know who anyone is.'

Mrs Richards' other daughter, Lesley O'Brien, who was also at the inquest, said: 'It's a disappointing verdict. We know from the facts that the drugs induced a coma and therefore, in the family's opinion, her death was induced.'

The inquest had been due to finish today, but concluded a day early.

Health chiefs will review verdict and take action

RESPONSIBILITY for Gosport War Memorial Hospital now lies with the Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group.

After the inquest, Julia Barton, chief quality control officer of the F&G CCG offered sympathies on behalf of the NHS to Gladys Richards' family.

Ms Barton said they would take 'any necessary action,' following a review of the verdict, but said that lots had changed at the hospital since the late 1990s.

She added that a 2002 investigation found 'adequate policies and guidelines in place governing the prescription and administration of pain-relieving medicines.'

Daughters' fight for truth has taken 15 years

THE death of Gladys Richards at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1998 has sparked a 15-year campaign for justice.

Following her death, daughter Gillian Mackenzie approached police with concerns over her mother's care.

She died under the care of Dr Jane Barton, who was linked to a string of other deaths at the hospital.

This prompted an investigation by Hampshire Constabulary.

After relentless campaigning, the then Home Secretary Jack Straw granted an inquest.

In April 2009, 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.

Following the inquest, the General Medical Council (GMC) 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, but was not struck off.

Dr Barton decided to retire from Forton Medical Centre in Gosport in early 2010 and a year later applied to GMC to have her name removed from the register, so she could no longer practise as a GP in the UK.