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General Medical Council

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TOP STORIES / DIRECT MENTIONS

No action over Stafford doctors

BBC (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

The General Medical Council (GMC) has said that Dr John Gibson, Dr Valerie Suarez, Dr David Durrans and Dr Diarmuid Mulherin, four senior doctors who were employed at Stafford Hospital during the scandal at the hospital, will not face disciplinary action. GMC chief executive Niall Dickson said that investigations showed no evidence of "misconduct or impairment against any of the doctors" at the hospital that faced allegations of neglect and abuse.

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Press Association, 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

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The Guardian, 24/09/2013, p. 6, Sarah Boseley

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The Times, 24/09/2013, p. 8, Chris Smyth

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The Daily Telegraph, 24/09/2013, p. 1, Laura Donnelly

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The Daily Mirror, 24/09/2013, p. 2, Unattributed

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The Daily Telegraph (Scotland), 24/09/2013, p. 17, Laura Donnelly*

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Irish Times (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 11,

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Broadcast

BBC 1 West Midlands, Regional News and Weather, 23/09/2013

[Article](#)

BBC Radio4, Shared Planet, 23/09/2013

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BBC Radio4, The World Tonight, 23/09/2013

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BBC Radio5, Phil Williams, 23/09/2013

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BBC Radio5, Phil Williams, 24/09/2013

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BBC Radio Cornwall, Vic Morgan, 24/09/2013

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BBC Radio4, News and Weather, 24/09/2013

[Article](#)**GMC fairness probed in independent review**

GP Online (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Marina Soteriou

The General Medical Council has commissioned independent agency the National Centre for Social Research to assess the fairness of its regulation. The survey of almost 7000 doctors drawn from an anonymous pool of registered doctors will investigate whether doctors from different backgrounds experience fair and objective regulation.

[Article](#)**Tell the GMC exactly what you think of it**

Hospital Dr News (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

The General Medical Council are asking almost 7,000 doctors for their views on them to get a greater understanding of how they are perceived. The survey is part of a new piece of research examining whether doctors think the GMC regulates in a fair and objective way, and will help inform their work to ensure standards are applied consistently.

[Article](#)**Doctors to be surveyed about fairness and the GMC**

Frc.co.uk (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

The General Medical Council has commissioned a survey to ask almost 7,000 doctors for their views on them to get a greater understanding of how they are perceived. The survey is part of a new piece of research examining whether doctors think the GMC regulates in a fair and objective way, and will help inform their work to ensure standards are applied consistently.

[Article](#)**RCGP legal fees could hit £100k over exam row**

Pulse Today (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

The RCGP may spend up to £100k in legal fees to challenge a judicial review into the fairness of the MRCGP exam for international medical graduates. The British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin has been granted a review into the differing pass rates for international and UK graduates. A leaked draft copy of a GMC-led review into the MRCGP concluded that differences in failure rates are unlikely to be due to bias.

[Article](#)**Doctors' chance to tell GMC exactly what the profession thinks of it**

Hospital Dr News (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed

The General Medical Council (GMC) has commissioned independent agency the National Centre for Social Research to assess the fairness of its regulation. The survey of almost 7000 doctors will investigate whether doctors from different backgrounds experience fair and objective regulation. Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the GMC, said: "As an organisation we are committed to listening and improving what we do.

[Article](#)**CONOR GEARTY Victims of inaction**

The Tablet, 21/09/2013, p. 12, Unattributed

Extensive commentary on the decision by the CPS not to prosecute two doctors who had said they were willing to carry out female genital mutilation. The CPS asserted that the matter should be dealt with by the General Medical Council.

[Article](#)**BUSINESS DILEMMAS Flirtations with Facebook +1 Add as Friend**

Independent Practitioner Today, 01/09/2013, p. 48, Unattributed

A hypothetical dilemma of being sent a Facebook request by a former patient. The General Medical Council's latest guidance, Doctors' Use of Social Media, states that in cases like this a doctor should indicate that they cannot have a personal relationship with a patient, and where possible direct them to a professional profile.

[Article](#)

SHARING CLINICAL PHOTOS When photos snap back

Independent Practitioner Today, 01/09/2013, p. 40, Unattributed

A round up of the advice given by the MDU on sharing photographs and other recordings of patients online. Dr Mike Devlin stresses that doctors wishing to share photographs or record consultations must have the patient's consent before doing so, and must follow General Medical Council guidance on the practice.

[Article](#)

Private mix-up warning

Independent Practitioner Today, 01/09/2013, p. 3, Charles King

The MDDUS has criticised would-be private GPs for failing to clearly separate between NHS and private treatments. Dr Naeem Nazem cited an example of doctors asking if they could prescribe privately for their NHS patients, saying that this could raise serious ethical issues, and any act of perceived dishonesty could lead to GMC sanctions.

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EXPANDING YOUR PRACTICE 1 So you want to be an expert witness?

Independent Practitioner Today, 01/09/2013, p. 30, Unattributed

Advice on how to become an expert witness. In a civil claim over a surgical case an expert witness may be asked to attend an inquest and be involved in referring to the General Medical Council. If the case went to the GMC you may be asked to comment on the doctor's fitness to practise.

[Article](#)

New revalidation e-portfolio for doctors

National Health Executive (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Strategic Health Authority News

A group of medical royal colleges has launched an online revalidation portfolio that will allow doctors to record, manage and facilitate submission of their supporting information for revalidation.

[Article](#)

Revalidating midwives and nurses is welcome

IOM Examiner, 23/09/2013, p. 23, Unattributed

The Isle of Man's Chief Nurse, Bev Critchlow, has welcomed the announcement by the Nursing and Midwifery Council to introduce revalidation for nurses. The move follows a similar scheme by the General Medical Council which was introduced for doctors in December 2012.

[Article](#)

FITNESS TO PRACTISE

Rape lies doc gets year ban

The Daily Mirror, 24/09/2013, p. 23, Unattributed

A doctor who lied about being raped twice on hospital grounds has been suspended for 12 months. Dr Hannah Farnsworth 'embellished' two genuine assaults so that she would be taken seriously. A panel found her guilty of making false declarations but ruled a life ban was 'disproportionate.'

[Article](#)

Doctor barred over 2 false rape claims

Metro, 24/09/2013, p. 6, Unattributed

A junior doctor who said she had been raped twice at a hospital has been suspended for a year. A tribunal ruled that Hannah Farnsworth's actions were dishonest and misleading, but said it would be 'disproportionate' to strike her off.

[Article](#)

Police may reopen death probe

Hospital Pharmacy Europe (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 0, April 2009 1042 Am

Investigations into the deaths of five elderly patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital may be reopened following an inquest that ruled inappropriate use of painkillers contributed to their deaths. Dr Jane Barton was investigated over the deaths ten years ago and no action was taken, but the General Medical Council has confirmed she may now face a fitness to practise hearing in the light of the inquest's findings.

[Article](#)

Surgeon faces probe over breast cancer treatment

The Irish Examiner, 24/09/2013, p. 36,

[Article](#)

Surgeon failed to refer woman who later died, hearing told

Irish Independent, 24/09/2013, p. 5,

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Breast surgeon faces six allegations*Irish Times (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 6,*[Article](#)**'Doctor missed cancer'***Daily Mail (Ireland)*, 24/09/2013, p. 20, by Kevin Keane*[Article](#)**MID-STAFFS****Boss named and shamed in NHS cover-up was also in charge of Stafford Hospital***The Sun Online, 23/09/2013, p. 1, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Read more: Mid Staffs faces being dissolved***ITV.com (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**NHS whistleblowing: turning words into actions***Hospital Dr News (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Professionals need to be held to account on basis of open data***guardian.co.uk (Web), 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Nurse struck off and colleague cautioned***Express & Star (Wolverhampton), 21/09/2013, p. 5, Rob Golledge*[Article](#)**OTHER NEWS****Demand soars at busiest hospital casualty units***The Guardian, 24/09/2013, p. 6, Randeep Ramesh*[Article](#)**Assisted dying***The Times, 24/09/2013, p. 31, Unattributed*[Article](#)**€1,100-a-night shift***Daily Mail (Ireland)*, 24/09/2013, p. 8, by Petrina Vousden Health Editor*[Article](#)**GPs offered over €1,000 a night to cover emergency department gaps***The Irish Examiner, 24/09/2013, p. 1,*[Article](#)**Government's unveils vision to turn failing NHS trusts around***Building Better Healthcare (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**NEWS DIARY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK***Press Association, 23/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Medical errors cost hospitals £65k a day***Express & Star (Wolverhampton), 21/09/2013, p. 6, Alex Ross*[Article](#)**It's the lawyers who benefit from NHS compo fund***Daily Express, 24/09/2013, p. 12, Ross Clark*[Article](#)**NHS: 'Working with partners'***Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 23/09/2013, p. 17, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Christian doctor's 'victimisation' claims rejected by Employment Tribunal**

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Shadow Health Secretary commits to free social care at end of life
EHospice (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 0, D.wardehospice.com
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Care.data publicity 'not adequate' - GPC
E-Health Insider (Web), 24/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed
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South Wales Echo, 23/09/2013, p. 21, Julia Mcwatt
[Article](#)

New fight against hospital superbugs
North Wales Daily Post, 24/09/2013, p. 13, Hywel Trewyn
[Article](#)

How can they call that care?
Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 23/09/2013, p. 16, Nick Lavigueur
[Article](#)

Patients and doctors angered by decision
Shropshire Star (Last), 20/09/2013, p. 6, Unattributed
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Building £27m hospital irresponsible says boss
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Health Top NHS managers to mentor hospitals
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Range of options for Torrington healthcare
Western Morning News (Devon), 24/09/2013, p. 11, Unattributed
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Safety record has improved since maternity centralised at Conquest Hospital, says report
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The GMC is a charity registered in England and Wales (1089278) and Scotland (SC037750)

Police may reopen death probe

22 April, 2009 10:42 AM

Investigations into the deaths of five elderly patients may be reopened following an inquest ruling that inappropriate use of painkillers contributed to their deaths.

Dr Jane Barton, who was in charge of care at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) at the time of the deaths ten years ago, was previously investigated, but no action was taken.

However, the General Medical Council (GMC) has confirmed that she might face a fitness to practise hearing because of the inquest ruling. Police are also considering whether to reopen a criminal investigation into the controversial hospital.

The inquest into the deaths at Portsmouth Coroner's Court ruled that the deaths of five patients at the GWMH were "more than minimally" contributed to by the medication given.

It also decided that painkillers were used inappropriately for the patients' condition or symptoms.

However, the deaths of a further five patients were found not to have been affected by medication administered for therapeutic reasons. Hampshire Police's Chief Constable Alex Marshall said that the case may be reopened if "any new" information arose from the inquests. Although Dr Barton, who left the hospital in 2000, has not been charged with any offence she had been subject to an Interim Orders Panel (IOP) since July last year, which bans her from prescribing diamorphine.

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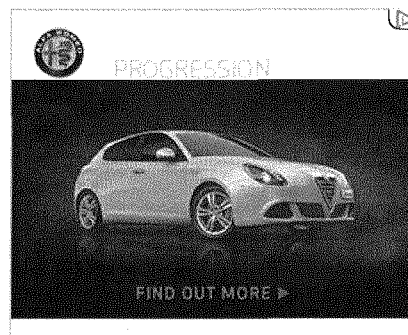
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