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Code A

**From:** precise@precise.co.uk  
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**To:** Code A  
**Subject:** Daily Media Summary - Wednesday 11 September 2013

# General Medical Council

## ALL COVERAGE

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## DIRECT MENTIONS / TOP STORIES

### GMC seeks powers to test doctors language skills

*British Medical Journal (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

The General Medical Council could get the power to test the English language skills of doctors where they are called into question. The Department of Health has launched a consultation on changes to the Medical Act 1983 to tighten the law on language checks. A second proposal sets out how the GMC would deal with fitness to practise cases that have been brought due to concerns about language proficiency.

[Article](#)

### GMC moves closer to English language checks on EU doctors

*GP Online (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Marina Soteriou*

The Government has launched a consultation on plans that would allow the General Medical Council to test the language skills of EU doctors working in the UK. The change aims to prevent a repeat of the errors that led to German locum Code A killing a patient during his first shift in the UK.

[Article](#)

### New GMC powers to check language skills

*Hospital Dr News (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

The General Medical Council is to be given the power to check the language skills of all doctors working in the UK. At present the GMC can only make checks on doctors from outside Europe, but the Government is carrying out a consultation on changing this after Code A a German locum, administered 10 times the maximum dose of painkiller after arriving in the UK.

[Article](#)

### Plan for testing doctors' English

*Express & Star (Wolverhampton), 09/09/2013, p. 15, Unattributed*

The General Medical Council could be given new powers to test the language skills of doctors from Europe. At present they are prevented from testing English skills by EU rules, but the Government has proposed a change in the law which would allow it to do so if there were concerns. The move comes after the case of Code A a German doctor who killed a patient with an overdose of the wrong drug.

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*Shropshire Star (Last), 09/09/2013, p. 15, Unattributed*

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### Language Controls for Doctors

*They Work For You (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

With the government intending to tighten rules on overseas doctors working in the U.K., Conservative MP Code A discusses how the Department of Health and the General Medical Council have been looking at measures to make sure the level of English spoken by doctors working in Britain is sufficient.

[Article](#)

### European dentists to face language tests

*Dentistry.co.uk (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

With the government set to give the General Dental Council the power to impose language checks on European dentists in Britain, similar measures for doctors are discussed. The Department of Health has set out tests for doctors, with it noted that non-European doctors must complete an English test, a written exam and General Medical Council assessments before joining the UK professional register.

[Article](#)

### Piles of paper can't prove a GP's worth

*The Guardian, 11/09/2013, p. 37, Zara Aziz*

A personal commentary on revalidation by GP Dr Zara Aziz. All practising doctors need a General Medical Council licence to practice, and revalidation was introduced last December, with annual appraisals being undertaken. Dr Aziz asks if there is so far any evidence that revalidation in its current form guarantees any medical improvements.

[Article](#)

### RCP sets challenge to realise Francis' vision

*National Care Forum (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has called on fellow healthcare organisations to follow it in committing to changes in the wake of the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. The RCP noted the need for the General Medical Council to work with professional bodies in developing the quality of education and training.

[Article](#)

### Press release: Hunt - NHS must fundamentally change to solve A&E problems

*10 Downing Street (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

A press release from Jeremy Hunt on future plans for the NHS and solving the problems with A&E departments. Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies is quoted on the importance of frontline staff having the flu vaccine, as recommended by the GMC, to help stop the spread of the virus.

[Article](#)

### Hospital staff told to get flu jab

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

Hospitals will lose money if their staff fail to take up the flu jab. Jeremy Hunt has said hospitals will get grants if at least 75% of staff have a flu vaccination. Professor Dame Sally Davies, chief medical officer, said that staff should take up the vaccine, as recommended by the General Medical Council, and help play an important role in preventing the spread of flu.

[Article](#)

### Trusts must vaccinate staff to access funding

*The Commissioning Review (Web), 11/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

Hospitals will have to give at least 75% of their staff the flu vaccination in order to gain from the Government's A&E bail out fund of £500million. Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies said that staff should take up the vaccine, as recommended by the General Medical Council, to stop them picking up flu and passing it on to vulnerable patients.

[Article](#)

### Practice dilemma - Driving with dementia

*GP Online (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

A hypothetical dilemma of a GP who has realised a patient of his is still driving yet has dementia, and there is no record of him disclosing this to the DVLA. Dr Angelique Mastihi says that in line with General Medical Council guidance, 'Confidentiality,' the GP can disclose this information to the DVLA in the public interest, and suggests involving the patient's wife.

[Article](#)

### BBC 1 Wales, BBC Wales Today; Weather, 10/09/2013

*BBC 1 Wales, 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

The first opt-out organ donation system in the UK, The Human Transplantation Act, has become law in Wales, after receiving Royal assent.

[Article](#)

### Making dilemma of universal health checks clear to patients

*BMJ (British Medical Journal) GP Edition, 07/09/2013, p. 23, Unattributed*

Letter: GP Sarah L Wookey writes on the conclusions of the Cochrane review, suggesting that one of the options it offers is to report herself to the General Medical Council for promoting an intervention from which she profits and which she believes is ineffective.

[Article](#)

### Doctor 'can't explain' why he said group studied Lucy's death

*The Detail (Web), 11/09/2013, p. 0, Ruth Oreilly*

Dr John Jenkins has denied that the death of Lucy Crawford had featured in a major review into the use of fluids, and said he could



not explain why he said it had in a TV interview. Dr Jenkins retired in 2010 having been a lecturer in child health, and was chair of the General Medical Council's UK-wide standards and ethics committee in 2005.

[Article](#)

### **Outrage of aborting on grounds of gender**

*Daily Express, 11/09/2013, p. 13, Ann Widdecombe*

Commentary on a recent decision by the CPS not to prosecute two doctors who had agreed to carry out abortions purely on the grounds of gender. It is suggested that following their argument for not prosecuting them, Dr Shipman should have 'been left merely to the GMC.'

[Article](#)

### **Difficult situations: what would a friend say?**

*BMJ (British Medical Journal) GP Edition, 07/09/2013, p. 26, Unattributed*

A commentary on the difference between being friendly to, and friends with, patients. The General Medical Council sets boundaries, saying that wherever possible, doctors should avoid providing medical care to anyone with whom they have a close personal relationship, and should avoid pursuing relationships with a patient.

[Article](#)

## **FITNESS TO PRACTISE**

### **Hospital deaths inquiry 'on verge'**

*Southern Daily Echo, 10/09/2013, p. 7, Unattributed*

Following a report by Professor Richard Baker that said the number of patients receiving drugs at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1988 and 2000 was "remarkably high", the government is said to be close to launching an independent inquiry into deaths of patients at the facility. It is noted that in 2009 the General Medical Council found Doctor Jane Barton guilty of misconduct related to the deaths of twelve patients who died at the hospital.

[Article](#)

### **Disgraced doc to face new misconduct case**

*Lancashire Telegraph, 10/09/2013, p. 5, Lawrence Dunhill*

Dr Riaz Hussain Ali Musa Raza, a doctor who the General Medical Council found guilty of sexual misconduct and suspended for twelve months in 2010, is under investigation again. The General Medical Council, who reconsidered Dr Raza's case in 2011 and deemed him fit to return to practicing, has not released any details of the new allegations. It did however note restrictions imposed upon Dr Raza, including one that prohibits consulting female patients without a chaperone.

[Article](#)

### **Groping doctor accused of Carry On exploits faces watchdog again**

*Evening News (Edinburgh), 10/09/2013, p. 4, Daniel Sanderson*

Dr Kiran Patwardhan, a senior children's doctor whose conduct toward a nurse was described as sexually motivated and unacceptable at a General Medical Council hearing in 2006, is set to face another watchdog panel following allegations of several blunders. It is said Dr Patwardhan failed to give adequate regard to the views offered by nurses and also offered inaccurate, or incomplete, information to investigators.

[Article](#)

### **'Carry on' doc faces patient blunder probe**

*Evening News (Edinburgh), 10/09/2013, p. 1, Daniel Sanderson*

A doctor who was given an official warning over sexually related conduct faces another investigation over claims he made errors. Dr Kiran Patwardhan was warned about his conduct by the General Medical Council in 2006, but faces another hearing over claims he failed patients and misled investigators.

[Article](#)

## **MID STAFFORDSHIRE INQUIRY**

### **A&E staff know patients better than GPs, Hunt claims**

*Health Sector (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

[Article](#)

### **Monitor deputy chair issues warning on failure regime**

*Health Service Journal (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

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## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Six-figure settlement in care claim**

*BBC (Web), 11/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*

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### **GP gets six years**

*Oxford Mail, 10/09/2013, p. 10, Unattributed*

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### **Inaugural conference for health watchdog**

*Carlisle News & Star, 09/09/2013, p. 10, Unattributed*



[Article](#)**Dangers from lack of training***Ealing Gazette Series, 06/09/2013, p. 14, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Did patient die from mistake that should NEVER happen?***Worcester News, 10/09/2013, p. 1, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Plan to use GPs to ease pressure on A&E wards***Worcester News, 10/09/2013, p. 7, Tarik al Rasheed*[Article](#)**Some good has come out of Winterbourne***The Guardian, 11/09/2013, p. 37, David Brindle*[Article](#)**Wales passes 'opt-out' law for organ donation***Yorkshire Post, 11/09/2013, p. 7, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Doc's wife tells court of attacks***Daily Record, 11/09/2013, p. 6, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Court told doctor assaulted wife while pregnant***The Herald, 11/09/2013, p. 5, Ashlie Mcanally*[Article](#)**Doctor held knife to wife's throat, trial told***The Scotsman, 11/09/2013, p. 14, Ashlie Mcanally*[Article](#)**15% of doctors probed in past year***The Irish Examiner, 11/09/2013, p. 32, by Evelyn Ring*[Article](#)**Mum's operation warning signs missed, inquest told***Belfast Telegraph - AM, 11/09/2013, p. 15, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Inquest to be held into childbirth death***Irish Times (Web), 11/09/2013, p. 5, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Free GP care for children will lead to 'poor service'***Irish Independent, 11/09/2013, p. 23, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Interview: New GP leader condemns PM's A&E plan***Health Service Journal (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Exclusive: College plans back to work scheme to ease GP shortage***Health Service Journal (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**'A&E staff know patients better than their GPs'***OnMedica.net (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Hunt told to stop claiming NHS is failing***guardian.co.uk (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Nicholas Watt*[Article](#)**Exclusive: Clare Gerada wins role transforming London primary care***Health Service Journal (Web), 10/09/2013, p. 0, Unattributed*[Article](#)**Hunt calls for same-day GP appointments***The Guardian, 11/09/2013, p. 16, Randeep Ramesh*[Article](#)

**Antibiotics to be withheld in superbug war**

*The Daily Telegraph, 11/09/2013, p. 2, Tim Ross*

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**Abortion law**

*The Daily Telegraph, 11/09/2013, p. 21, Unattributed*

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**Organ opt-out system becomes law in Wales**

*Western Mail, 11/09/2013, p. 2, Julia Mcwatt*

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# Government 'on verge' of inquiry into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital



Government 'on verge' of hospital deaths inquiry

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THE Government is on the verge of launching an independent inquiry into deaths of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1988 and 2000, the Daily Echo understands.

It follows a report by Professor Richard Baker released earlier this year, which said that the proportion of patients who received drugs at the hospital between 1988 and 2000 was "remarkably high".

The report was originally commissioned in 2002 after the deaths of a number of elderly patients at the hospital in the 1990s, but held back due to police investigations and inquests which were held into 11 of the deaths.

Prof Baker found death rates at the hospital, and the amount of morphine and diamorphine prescribed, may have "shortened life" in some cases.

In 2009 hospital doctor Jane Barton, was found guilty by the General Medical Council of multiple instances of professional misconduct relating to 12 patients who died there. But after a police investigation into 92 patients' deaths, no criminal prosecutions have ever been

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The Department of Health refused to confirm an inquiry was being considered, but a spokesman said: "We are determined to get to the bottom of this.

Meetings are now taking place with the families of those who died at the hospital and we are carefully considering how to deal with their concerns."

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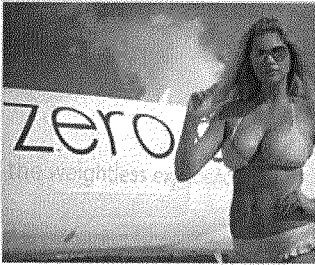
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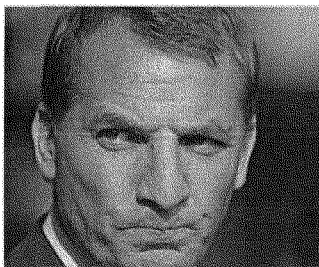
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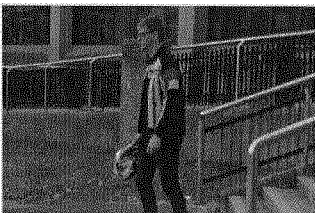
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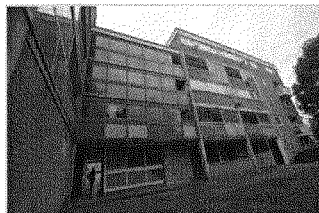
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