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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 28 June 2009 10:14  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** FW: Press Cuttings Saturday 27th June

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## Press Cuttings Summary

Saturday 27 June 2009

### Direct Mentions

In a news feature placed by the Press Office, the Observer explores how doctors communicate to parents when a baby is critically ill in the context of the GMC's End of Life Care consultation. The piece quotes from the draft guidance and also a GMC/'Mumsnet' poll which found that of those parents questioned, the majority felt the High Court should not have the final say in withdrawing treatment from a critically ill child.

A 'news nib' notes that 60% of complaints passed to the GMC are about poor clinical care in the Sunday Telegraph.

The Independent on Sunday continues its coverage of the Dr Barton hearing and reports that nurses who voiced concerns about practise at the Gosport War Memorial hospital were labelled 'troublemakers'.

In a passing mention, The Telegraph notes how Liberal Democrat MP Colin Breed sits on a GMC Fitness to Practise panel.

### Times Letters page

There are no letters to note.

### Other News

Although there is no mention of the GMC, the Sunday Express notes that the Care Quality Commission has agreed to investigate 28 operations which were allegedly 'botched' by surgeons. The paper handed a dossier of its investigation into the matter to the CQC.

The Times writes that GPs are keeping 'ghost lists' of patients who have moved away or died because they receive a payment of £100 per year for every person registered at their surgery. The BMA defends the news by saying "There are some patients who have genuinely not seen a GP in 20 years, it is not a good use of our time to go knocking on doors."

There is a debate about assisted suicide in the Independent on Sunday between

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and Michael Whenham, who both have terminal illnesses.

The Chair of the Royal College of GPs has urged people to think twice before making a complaint against a doctor writes the Star on Sunday. According to the paper, the Healthcare Commission received around 500 complaints about doctors last year that included matters such as not providing a sick note for a hangover.

Scotland on Sunday notes that the BMA is calling on doctors to have more support for 'whistle blowing' ahead of their conference next week.

Links to cuttings:

GMC

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 933

Grave digging to caravanning: how MPs boost their salaries  
Investigation into the money made by MPs from second jobs.

GMC

The Observer

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 1019

The decision to end a baby's life is agony. Are doctors making it worse?

Doctors are being told to display greater sensitivity towards parents facing the agonising decision of whether to switch off the life support machine of their critically ill newborn baby. The General Medical Council is finalising new guidance for medics amid concern that some of them can seem highhanded, not explain complex medical procedures very well, unwittingly leave parents with false hopes about their child's chances of survival and exclude loved ones from crucial decisions.

GMC

Independent on Sunday

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 521

Nurses who blew whistle on drugs 'driven out of jobs'

The General Medical Council has been told that nurses who voiced concerns about the widespread use of potentially lethal drugs on elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital were harassed, labelled "troublemakers" and driven out of their jobs.

Doctors

Sunday Express

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 272

Probe on 'botched' child operations

Patient safety chiefs are to investigate claims that 28 operations on children were botched by unskilled surgeons. Last week the Sunday Express revealed how a whistle-blowing surgeon was suspended after raising concerns about the safety of youngsters undergoing surgery at University Hospital of North Staffordshire in Stoke-on-Trent.

Doctors

The Mail on Sunday

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 470

The 'ghost' patients who boost GPs' incomes by thousands every year

Family doctors are boosting their income by thousands of pounds a year by failing to remove from their registers patients who have died or moved to another country. Some GPs are keeping the so-called 'ghost patients' on their lists because they receive an annual payment of up to £100 for every person registered with them, regardless of whether they have had any treatment.

## End of Life

Independent on Sunday

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 1269

Suicide is legal, helping someone to die is not. Must the law be changed?

For and against views on assisted suicide.

## GMC

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 28/06/2009

Number of words : 22

60% of complaints put to the General Medical Council

60% of complaints put to the General Medical Council (on average 5,000 a year) are about poor clinical care.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/nurses-who-blew-whistle-on-drugs-driven-out-of-jobs-1722452.html>

# Nurses who blew whistle on drugs 'driven out of jobs'

Staff warned managers over use of potentially lethal painkillers on elderly patients back in 1991, GMC hears

- By Nina Lakhani and Tim Persinko
- Saturday 22 October 2011
- 0 comments

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Nurses who voiced concerns about the widespread use of potentially lethal drugs on elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital were harassed, labelled "troublemakers" and driven out of their jobs, the General Medical Council was told last week.

Several nurses warned senior managers at the Hampshire hospital as far back as 1991 that patients were being started on powerful painkillers before they showed any signs of pain, the Council's five-person Fitness to Practice Panel was told.

## ADVERTISING

The panel is inquiring into allegations of professional misconduct against Dr Jane Barton in relation to the treatment and death of 12 elderly patients in the 1990s. The hearing follows three Hampshire police investigations into 92 deaths at the hospital which resulted in no charges being brought. However, The Independent on Sunday understands that the Crown Prosecution Service is reviewing some of the cases that it closed in 2006.

The hearing was told that elderly patients were started on unacceptably high doses of the drugs by the doctor, and that the doses were then increased too quickly by nurses, without proper assessment of their pain.

Several nurses raised concerns in their evidence about Gill Hamblin, the sister on Dryad Ward, who was described as having a "very close working relationship with Dr Barton". Sister Hamblin is excused from appearing as a witness on health grounds.

Worrying inconsistencies about what went on in Gosport emerged from the six nurses who have so far given evidence in person. Lynn Barrett, a nurse on Dryad Ward, said patients were sometimes given diamorphine to control aggression, which Shirley Hallman, a senior nurse on the ward, denied.

Ms Barrett was warned by the panel's legal adviser that she could be incriminating herself as she answered questions about whether the cocktail of drugs given to one patient, Mrs Eva Page, may have "hastened her death or killed her". Ms Barrett had started by saying that no patients had been overdosed at Gosport and that Dr Barton was being made a scapegoat.

No nurses have so far faced disciplinary action by the Nursing & Midwifery Council, despite complaints dating back to 2002. Its decision to wait until after the GMC hearing before taking action was last night described as "bewildering".

In 1991, staff nurse Beverly Turnbull raised concerns about the "indiscriminate" use of morphine, which she believed was "hastening deaths".

Ms Turnbull told the hearing: "We were labelled troublemakers by some of the staff... We were just banging our heads against a brick wall."

Nurse Hallman told the hearing Dr Barton and Sister Hamblin mounted a harassment campaign against her after she raised concerns about premature use of syringe drivers, used to deliver drugs through the skin when patients

cannot swallow. She could not recall one patient who recovered after being put on a syringe driver. "Dr Barton told me she wasn't upset at me but that I didn't understand what they did here."

The NHS Trust admits "insufficient action" was taken in the 1990s but says all the issues have now been addressed.

Dr Barton is yet to give evidence at the hearing, which is expected to last until August.

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