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From: Stephanie McNamara Code A
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Press Cuttings Summary

Saturday 17 April 2010

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

BMA News

- The GMC has published new guidance aimed at doctors involved in research.
- The deputy chair of the BMA's GP's committee has said that European GPs must be able to communicate in English, following the publication of the Health Select Committee report into overseas doctors and out of hours care.
- A guide for patients explaining the different titles and qualifications used by doctors during training has been published. The leaflet was developed by the Academy of Royal Colleges in partnership with PMETB, now merged with the GMC.
- The MDDUS has warned that poor patient handovers could lead to serious medico-legal risks and notes the guidance from the GMC on communication and handovers in Good Medical Practice.
- The GMC has confirmed it has no plans to change the way it calculates fee levels for retired doctors.
- Delegates at a conference have called for pupils from lower socio-economic groups to have easier access to work experience in medicine, and suggested that the BMA medical students committee should work with the GMC to establish a 'bank' of work experience placements.
- The chair of the NHS: Medical Education England foundation programme review has called on junior doctors to submit their views to the review, including what they think about registering with the GMC after their first year of training.
- The BMA has argued that doctors should continue to be fully registered with the GMC after one year of training, after the review of the foundation programme questioned whether registration should move to FY2.
- A feature looks at doctors having to step in to provide emergency treatment to passengers when travelling on an aircraft, and notes GMC guidance.

BMJ

-The MDU has advised that doctors may sometimes need to disclose confidential information to the family of a patient with an inherited condition against the patient's wishes. The article includes the link to the GMC guidance on Confidentiality.

-The recommendations from the Health Select Committee report on overseas doctors and out-of-hours care are reported.

- A feature by Brian Deer examines Dr Wakefield's claims of a new bowel condition in autistic children. The feature refers extensively to the GMC's ongoing fitness to practise hearing.

-A linked editorial asks whether autistic enterocolitis exists and says that despite the retracted Wakefield paper, questions remain.

- An article notes that Dr Jane Barton has retired and mentions the conditions imposed on her registration by the GMC.

-The number of fitness to practise cases dealt with by the GMC has risen significantly in the past year, with 52 referrals in February alone.

-A GMC Fitness to Practise hearing has found that Dr Trossel exploited vulnerable patients but cleared the doctor of dishonesty.

The Edinburgh Evening News of 15 April and the Scottish Sun of 16 April report on the case of a patient with dementia who refused treatment for pneumonia. Mary Arbuckle had been assessed as not having capacity to refuse treatment. She later died: <http://news.scotsman.com/health/39My-wife-screamed-for-help.6228794.jp>

Revalidation

BMA News

-In a letter to BMA News, a doctor expresses concern on whether revalidation is legal under European law and calls for the GMC to clarify the situation and reassure doctors that there will not be a two-tier system of revalidated and non-revalidated doctors because of restrictions on revalidating EEA doctors.

-Doctors in Scotland are invited to chair two workshops on revalidation, which will be chaired by Professor Peter Rubin.

Fitness to Practise

Dr Nikolaos Reissis (warning) (Daily Mail online) <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1266447/Bungling-surgeon-errors-led-patient-leg-amputated-escapes-slap-wrist.html>

Dr Henry Chichester Vaughan Edward Hart (adjourned) (North West Evening Mail)

Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions to note.

Letters pages

- A letter to the BMJ suggests that the whole system of using locum doctors should be reconsidered in a time when patient safety and clinical governance are priorities.

Other News

- The Daily Telegraph and the Financial Times report that the Department of Health has suspended work to put patient records on a national database following a public outcry. The BMA had warned that many people were still unaware of the scheme and didn't know they could opt out.

- A comment piece in the Financial Times reports that the publisher of the medical journal Medical Hypotheses wants to introduce a system of peer review for the journal, but the commentator points out that peer review does not always prevent bad papers being published and cites Dr Wakefield's paper in the Lancet.

- The Independent reviews the answers on the NHS in the first election debate and concludes the responses were 'dismal'.

- A family of four from California has become the first in which every member's genome has been sequenced for non-medical reasons, opening a debate about the ethics of analysing the DNA of minors.

Headlines:

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 109

Royal colleges explain qualifications

A guide for patients explaining the different titles and qualifications used by doctors in training has been published.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 101

Insurers investigate patient handover

Poor patient handovers could pose serious medico-legal risks, insurers have warned.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 82

Revalidation workshops launched

Doctors in Scotland are invited to attend one of two workshops to discuss revalidation.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 150

GMC sticks to discount policy

The GMC has no plans to change the way it calculates fee levels for retired doctors, it has confirmed.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 209

Revalidation and the EU

Reader's letter: "Setting up a system to cover non-UK doctors with possibly poor English boggles the mind. Clarification by the GMC on this matter - to the effect that we are not going to evolve a two-tier system of revalidated and non-revalidated doctors - would be reassuring."

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 82

' Bank' of work experience needed

Pupils from lower socio-economic groups should have easier access to work experience in medicine, a conference decided.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 2626

Sky-high saviours

In the confines of travelling aircraft, there is a chance that passengers could fall ill and need medical help. Doctors on board often have no choice but to step forward, with varying results. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 360

BMA resists switch to registration after FY2 Doctors should continue to be fully registered with the GMC after one year in training, according to the BMA.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 72

GMC publishes advice on research

The GMC has published guidance aimed at doctors involved in research.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 164

MPs agree on need to police

European-based GPs who treat patients in the UK must be able to communicate in English, the BMA has said.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 1073

A chance for change

John Collins wants to hear the views of junior doctors for an evaluation that could change the style of postgraduate training. Flavia Munn reports, noting the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 312

Doctors may need to disclose a patient's genetic data to family Doctors may sometimes need to disclose confidential information to family members of a patient with an inherited disease against the patient's wishes, advises the United Kingdom's biggest organisation for advising and defending doctors.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 280

MPs back calls for tighter checks on European doctors working as locums MPs have called for changes in the checks that the General Medical Council can make on locum doctors working in the United Kingdom, after the death of Cambridge patient, **Code A** who was attended by a German locum in 2008.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 201

Reconsider the locum system

Discussion of the locum system, noting the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 3951

Wakefield's "autistic enterocolitis" under the microscope **Code A** claims for a new bowel condition in autistic children have been largely overlooked in the furore over MMR vaccination. Brian Deer reports, noting the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 1895

Does autistic enterocolitis exist?

Brian Deer tries to unravel the journey of the histopathological reports on the biopsies that formed the basis of the recently retracted study by **Code A** and colleagues in the Lancet, which introduced the entity "autistic enterocolitis." Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 62

GP at centre of elderly

Jane Barton, the GP found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council for prescribing drugs that were "excessive, inappropriate, and potentially hazardous" to elderly patients at Gosport Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s, has retired aged 60. Conditions attached to her practice by the GMC last January included a ban on administering opiates by injection.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 83

Rise in GMC cases

The number of fitness to practice cases dealt with by the General Medical Council has risen significantly in the past year, with 52 referrals to the fitness to practise panel in February 2010 alone - the highest number in one month for several years.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 248

Doctor is found guilty of exploiting "desperate" patients A Dutch doctor practising in London who sent patients with multiple sclerosis from Britain NHS issues

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 430

NHS forced to halt plan for medical records database A scheme to place confidential medical records on a national database has been suspended following a public outcry. The British Medical Association warned that many people were not even aware of the scheme, let alone the fact that they could opt out of it. The Department of Health said it would only start adding information to the summary care records database once public awareness had been increased.

NHS issues

Financial Times

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 392

NHS suspends electronic record project

The chances of England ever getting a fully interchangeable electronic patient record shrank again yesterday when the Department of Health confirmed it had suspended more uploads of the national summary care record in most of the country. The move follows protests from the British Medical Association that patients were not being given sufficient opportunity to opt out. To date, about 1.3m records have been uploaded in 16 pilot primary care trusts, according to Connecting for Health, and it said uploads in those areas would continue.

Miscellaneous

Financial Times

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 427

Second opinion

The journal Medical Hypotheses, a source of admittedly outlandish articles, is under attack. The publisher, Elsevier, wants to introduce a new system of peer review, but the current editor, Bruce Charlton, disagrees. peer review is the process that is supposed to separate reasoned medical theories from hysterical tabloid tales.

GMC

North West Evening Mail

Delivery date : 14/04/2010

Number of words : 125

Doc case adjourned

A fitness to practise hearing for a former Ulverston doctor has been adjourned.

NHS issues

The Independent

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 192

Forget the style, what about the substance: how they performed on the questions that mattered most The responses to the NHS question in the leaders' televised debate were "dismal," writes Jeremy Laurance in The Independent.

Miscellaneous

The Times

Delivery date : 17/04/2010

Number of words : 773

- Honey, I DNA'd the kids: father's genetics decision opens debate on morality A family of four has become the first to be publicly named in which every member's genome has been sequenced for non-medical reasons, opening a debate about the ethics of analysing the DNA of minors.