

GLADYS
RICHARDS

CONTENTS**1. INSTRUCTIONS**

To examine and comment upon the statements of Mrs Gladys Richards daughters. In particular, if they raise issues that would impact upon any expert witness report prepared.

2. DOCUMENTATION

This report is based on the following document:

2.1 Witness statement of Gillian Mackenzie, Lesley Frances Luck, Gillian McKenzie on Lesley Richards as provided to me by the Hampshire Constabulary (May 2005). Also note extracts and commentary (Gillian McKenzie) June 2005.

2.2 Report regarding Gladys Richards (BJC/41) Dr D Black 2005.

3. COMMENTS**3.1 Comments on Witness Statement (2.1)**

3.1.1 I have read all the statements and the only new significant findings appear to have been that staff have suggested that "a haematoma" was the cause of her deterioration and pain on return from Haslar for the second time on the 17th August. There is no mention of this that I have been able to find in the medical notes.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Having read all the documents above provided by Hampshire Constabulary, I would not wish to make any changes to my expert statement.

Code A

18/6/05

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Gladys Richards presents an example of a common, complex problem in geriatric medicine. A patient with one major progressive and end stage pathology (a dementing illness) develops a second pathology, has surgery, has a complication after that surgery, has more surgery and gradually deteriorates and dies.

In my view a major problem in assessing this case is poor documentation in Gosport Hospital in both the medical and nursing notes, making a retrospective assessment of her progress difficult. Good Medical Practice (GMC 2001 states that "Good clinical care must include an adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and symptoms and if necessary an appropriate examination"....."in providing care you must keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients and any drugs or other treatments prescribed". "Good clinical case must include – taking suitable and prompt action when necessary" "Referring the patient to another practitioner when indicated"...."in providing care you must – recognise and work within the limits of your professional competence"... "prescribe drugs and treatments, including repeat prescriptions only where you have adequate knowledge of the patients health and medical needs". The lack of detail in the medical notes, the absence of evidence of asking for advice on 17th August and the lack of recording why decisions were made or if the patient was properly examined present poor clinical practice to the standards set by the General Medical Council. In particular, I am concerned the anticipatory prescription of Opioid analgesia on her admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. If no justification for this can be identified or proven, then I believe that this was negligent practice and may have contributed to her fall on the ward. I also believe that the dose of Diamorphine, in particular prescribed on the 17th August, was sub optimally high. However I do not believe this contributed in any significant way to Mrs Richards death and that her death was by natural causes.

1. INSTRUCTIONS

To examine the medical records and comment upon the standard of care afforded to the patient in the days leading up to her death against the acceptable standard of the day. Where appropriate, if the care is felt to be sub-optimal, comment upon the extent to which it may or may not disclose criminally culpable actions on the part of individuals or groups.

2. ISSUES

- 2.1. Was the standard of care afforded to this patient in the days leading up to her death in keeping with the acceptable standard of the day.

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- 2.2. If the care is found to be suboptimal what treatment should normally have been proffered in this case.
- 2.3. If the care is found to be suboptimal to what extent may it disclose criminally culpable actions on the part of individuals or groups.

3. CURRICULUM VITAE

Name David Andrew Black

Address

Telephone

DOB

Place

Marital status

GMC

Defence Union

Code A

EDUCATION

Code A

DEGREES AND QUALIFICATIONS

BA, Cambridge University	1977
(Upper Second in Medical Sciences)	
MB BChir, Cambridge University	1980
MA, Cambridge University	1981
MRCP (UK)	1983
Accreditation in General (internal) Medicine and Geriatric Medicine	1989
FRCP	1994
MBA (Distinction) University of Hull.	1997
Certificate in Teaching	2001

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NHS/INSEAD Clinical strategists program 2003

SPECIALIST SOCIETIES

British Geriatrics Society
 British Society of Gastroenterology
 British Association of Medical Managers

PRESENT POST

Code A

Consultant Physician (Geriatric Medicine) 1987-present
 Queen Marys Hospital, Sidcup, Kent.
 Associate member General Medical Council 2002-present

PREVIOUS POSTS

Code A

2004
 Medical Director (part time) 1997-2003
 Queen Mary's Hospital
 Operations Manager (part time) 1996-1997
 Queen Marys Hospital, Sidcup, Kent
 Senior Registrar in General and Geriatric Medicine
 Guy's Hospital London and St Helen's Hospital
 Hastings. 1985-1987
 Registrar in General Medicine and Gastroenterology
 St Thomas' Hospital, London. 1984-1985
 Registrar in General Medicine
 Medway Hospital, Gillingham, Kent 1983-1984
 SHO rotation in General Medicine
 Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury 1982-1983
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D Sulch, DA Black

Geriatric Medicine 2001; 31(6): 46-49

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DA Black and M Pearson

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An audit of outcomes in day hospital based crisis interventions.

David A Black

Age Ageing 2003; 32; 360-361

Quality Improvement in the UK

DA Black

Chapter 119 In: Brocklehurst's Textbook of Geriatric Medicine. 6th Edition Ed:

Tallis and Fillit. 2003.

The new NHS framework for handling performance concerns.

David A Black

Hospital Medicine 2004; 65 (2): 112-115

Not because they are old- revisited

DA Black

Age and Ageing. 2004;33; 430-432

BOOK

British Geriatrics Society compendium of policy statements and statements of good practice. Edited by DA Black & A Main. First Edition. 1995.

RECENT SIGNIFICANT PRESENTATIONS

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Secondary care as part of the whole system. Laing & Buisson conference on intermediate care. April 2001

The impact of the NSF on everyday Clinical Care. Conference on Clinical governance in elderly care . RCP May 2001

The Geriatricians view of the NSF. BGS Autumn Meeting 2001

The Organisation of Stroke Care. Physicians and managers working together to develop services. Professional training and clinical governance in geriatric medicine. All at Argentinean Gerontological Society 50th Anniversary meeting. Nov 2001

The future of Geriatric Medicine in the UK. Workshop: American Geriatrics Society May 2002

Liberating Front Line Leaders. Workshop: BAMM Annual Meeting June 2002

Revalidation - the State of Play. A Survival Guide for Physicians. Mainz July 2002

Medical Aspects of Intermediate Care. London Conference on building intermediate care services for the future. Sept 2002

Developing Consultant Careers. Workshop: BAMM Medical Directors Meeting. Nov 2002

Lang and Buisson. Update on Intermediate Care Dec 2002

Intermediate Care Update: London National Elderly Care Conference. June 2003.

Appraisal- an update. GMC symposium on revalidation. Brighton. June 2003.

Innovations in emergency care for older people. HSJ Conference. London July 2003.

Emergency Care & Older People: separate elderly teams? RCP London March 2004

Professional Performance & New Consultants. London Deanery Conference April 2004

Mentoring as part of induction for new consultants. Mentoring in Medicine Conference. Nottingham. April 2004

The Future of Chronic Care- Where, How and Who? CEO & MD conference. RCP London. June 2004

Mentoring as part of consultant induction. Surviving to Thriving. New Consultant Conference, London June 2004

360 Degree Appraisal. Chairman National Conference. Nottingham June 2004

Maintaining Professional Performance. BAMM Annual Summer School. June 2004

Version 2 of complete report 17 May 2005 – Gladys Richards

Chronic Disease management. BGS Council Study Day. Basingstoke. July 2004

MMC post FP2. BGS Study Day. Basingstoke. July 2004

Designing care for older peoples. Emergency services conference. London July 2004.

The Modern Geriatric Day Hospital. Multidisciplinary Day. South East Kent hospitals.
Sept 2004

Geriatricians and Acute General Medicine. BGS Autumn Meeting . Harrogate Oct
2004

4. DOCUMENTATION

This Report is based on the following documents:

- [1] Full paper set of medical records of Gladys Richards (BJC/41)
- [2] Operation Rochester Briefing Document Criminal Investigation Summary.
- [3] Hampshire Constabulary Operation Rochester Guidance for Medical Experts.
- [4] Commission for Health Improvement Investigation Report on
Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust at Gosport War Memorial Hospital
(July 2002).
- [5] Palliative Care Handbook Guidelines on Clinical
Management, Third Edition, Salisbury Palliative Care Services (1995);
Also referred to as the 'Wessex Protocols.'

5 CHRONOLOGY/CASE ABSTRACT. (The numbers in brackets refer to the page of evidence, the numbers with 'H' in front are the Haslar notes).

- 5.1. Gladys Richards was a 91 year old lady and in 1998 was admitted as
an emergency on 29th July 1998 to the Haslar Hospital (H39).

5.2.

Code A

Code A

5.3.

Code A

5.4.

5.5.

5.6.

Code A

5.7.

Code A

on 21st August 1998.

- 5.13. An unusual feature of the original Gosport War Memorial Drug Chart (64) is that Oramorphine 2.5 mgs 4 hourly was written up on the regular prescription side on the 11th August, together with 5 mgs at night regularly. It then has the letters prn against both of these prescriptions which presumably refers the prescriber back to the actual prescriptions which were given on a prn basis of Oramorphine (62).

6. TECHNICAL BACKGROUND / EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS IN ISSUE

- 6.1. This section will consider whether there were any actions so serious that they might amount to gross negligence or any unlawful acts, or deliberate unlawful killing in the care of Elsie Lavender. Also whether there were any actions or admissions by the medical team, nursing staff or attendant GP's that contributed to the demise of Mrs Lavender, in particular, whether beyond reasonable doubt, the actions or omissions more than minimally, negligibly or trivially contributed to death.
- 6.2. Mrs Richards was suffering from the terminal stage of a dementing process, probably Alzheimer's disease. This is reflected in the comments earlier in 1998 by a consultant psychogeriatrician that she had end stage disease and the well-documented progression of this over many years. Despite this though, she was still able to get around in the nursing home and as is often the case, even with the best forms of monitoring, having multiple falls.

6.3.

Code A

6.4.

Code A

- 6.5. However, she survived the first operation and is seen by Dr Reed, Consultant Geriatrician who believes that she should be transferred to Gosport War Memorial to see if any mobility can be regained. This is not unreasonable; it may make her new placement in a nursing home easier if she is able to have some increase in independence.

6.6.

6.7.

Code A

6.8.

6.9.

Code A

6.10.

Code A

6.11.

Code A

6.12.

I understand the post mortem and the cause of death said:

1a Bronchopneumonia.

In my view the correct Death Certificate would have said:

1a Fractured Neck of Femur

2 Severe dementia.

There is no doubt that after people have been dying over a number of days, if a post mortem is performed, then secretions and changes of Bronchopneumonia are often found in the lungs as the very final agonal event. This allows clinicians to put the phrase "Bronchopneumonia" on the death certificate.

Unfortunately, under current guidance to Coroners if 'fractured neck of femur' is written on the death certificate, then the Coroner has little option but to perform a post mortem as the death is deemed to be non accidental. Where patients have not died immediately after a fractured neck of femur, some Coroner's Officer's encourage clinicians to leave 'fractured neck of femur' off the death certificate to save the relatives the potential trauma of a post mortem. I believe this is poor national practice, but it is not a specific criticism in this case.

7. OPINION

- 7.1. Gladys Richards presents an example of a common, complex problem in geriatric medicine. A patient with one major progressive and end stage pathology (a dementing illness) develops a second pathology, has surgery, has a complication after that surgery, has more surgery and gradually deteriorates and dies.
- 7.2. In my view a major problem in assessing this case is poor documentation in Gosport Hospital in both the medical and nursing notes, making a retrospective assessment of her progress difficult. Good Medical Practice (GMC 2001 states that "Good clinical care must include an adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and symptoms and if necessary an appropriate examination"....."in providing care you must keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients and any drugs or other treatments prescribed". "Good clinical case must include – taking suitable and prompt action when necessary" "Referring the patient to another practitioner when indicated""in providing care you must – recognise and work within the limits of your professional competence"... "prescribe drugs and treatments, including repeat prescriptions only where you have adequate knowledge of the patients health and medical needs". The lack of detail in the medical notes, the absence of evidence of asking for advice on 17th August and the lack of recording why decisions were made or if the patient was properly examined present poor clinical practice to the standards set by the General Medical Council. In particular, I am concerned the anticipatory prescription of Opioid analgesia on her admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. If no justification for this can be identified or proven, then I believe that this was negligent practice and may have contributed to her fall on the ward. I also believe that the dose of Diamorphine, in particular, prescribed on the 17th August, was sub optimally high. However I do not believe this contributed in any significant way to Mrs Richards death and that her death was by natural causes.

8 LITERATURE/REFERENCES

1. Good Medical Practice, General Medical Council 2002
2. Withholding withdrawing life, prolonging treatments: Good Practice and decision making. General Medical Council 2002.
3. Palliative Care, Welsh J, Fallon M, Keeley PW. Brocklehurst Text Book of Geriatric Medicine, 6th Edition, 2003, Chapter 23 pages 257-270.
4. The treatment of Terminally Ill Geriatric Patients, Wilson JA, Lawson, PM, Smith RG. Palliative Medicine 1987; 1:149-153.
5. Accuracy of Prognosis, Estimates by 4 Palliative Care Teams: A Prospective Cohort Study. Higginson IJ, Costantini M. BMC Palliative Care 2002;1:129
6. The Palliative Care Handbook. Guidelines on Clinical Management, 3rd Edition. Salisbury Palliative Care Services, May 1995.

9. EXPERTS' DECLARATION

1. I understand that my overriding duty is to the court, both in preparing reports and in giving oral evidence. I have complied and will continue to comply with that duty.
2. I have set out in my report what I understand from those instructing me to be the questions in respect of which my opinion as an expert are required.
3. I have done my best, in preparing this report, to be accurate and complete. I have mentioned all matters, which I regard as relevant to the opinions I have expressed. All of the matters on which I have expressed an opinion lie within my field of expertise.
4. I have drawn to the attention of the court all matters, of which I am aware, which might adversely affect my opinion.
5. Wherever I have no personal knowledge, I have indicated the source of factual information.
6. I have not included anything in this report, which has been suggested to me by anyone, including the lawyers instructing me, without forming my own independent view of the matter.
7. Where, in my view, there is a range of reasonable opinion, I have indicated the extent of that range in the report.
8. At the time of signing the report I consider it to be complete and accurate. I will notify those instructing me if, for any reason, I subsequently consider that the report requires any correction or qualification.
9. I understand that this report will be the evidence that I will give under oath, subject to any correction or qualification I may make before swearing to its veracity.

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- 10. I have attached to this report a statement setting out the substance of all facts and instructions given to me which are material to the opinions expressed in this report or upon which those opinions are based.

10. STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I confirm that insofar as the facts stated in my report are within my own knowledge I have made clear which they are and I believe them to be true, and the opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinion.

Signature: _____

Code A

Date: _____

10/6/05

Version 2 of complete report 17 May 2005 – Gladys Richards

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Gladys Richards presents an example of a common, complex problem in geriatric medicine. A patient with one major progressive and end stage pathology (a dementing illness) develops a second pathology, has surgery, has a complication after that surgery, has more surgery and gradually deteriorates and dies.

In my view a major problem in assessing this case is poor documentation in Gosport Hospital in both the medical and nursing notes, making a retrospective assessment of her progress difficult. Good Medical Practice (GMC 2001 states that "Good clinical care must include an adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and symptoms and if necessary an appropriate examination"....."in providing care you must keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients and any drugs or other treatments prescribed". "Good clinical case must include – taking suitable and prompt action when necessary".... "Referring the patient to another practitioner when indicated"...."in providing care you must – recognise and work within the limits of your professional competence"..."prescribe drugs and treatments, including repeat prescriptions only where you have adequate knowledge of the patients health and medical needs". The lack of detail in the medical notes, the absence of evidence of asking for advice on 17th August and the lack of recording why decisions were made or if the patient was properly examined present poor clinical practice to the standards set by the General Medical Council. In particular, I am concerned the anticipatory prescription of Opioid analgesia on her admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. If no justification for this can be identified or proven, then I believe that this was negligent practice and may have contributed to her fall on the ward. I also believe that the dose of Diamorphine, in particular prescribed on the 17th August, was sub optimally high. However I do not believe this contributed in any significant way to Mrs Richards death and that her death was by natural causes.

1. INSTRUCTIONS

To examine the medical records and comment upon the standard of care afforded to the patient in the days leading up to her death against the acceptable standard of the day. Where appropriate, if the care is felt to be sub-optimal, comment upon the extent to which it may or may not disclose criminally culpable actions on the part of individuals or groups.

2. ISSUES

- 2.1. Was the standard of care afforded to this patient in the days leading up to her death in keeping with the acceptable standard of the day.

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- 2.2. If the care is found to be suboptimal what treatment should normally have been proffered in this case.
- 2.3. If the care is found to be suboptimal to what extent may it disclose criminally culpable actions on the part of individuals or groups.

3. CURRICULUM VITAE

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 Senior Registrar in General and Geriatric Medicine
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The future of Geriatric Medicine in the UK. Workshop: American Geriatrics Society May 2002

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Lang and Buisson. Update on Intermediate Care Dec 2002

Intermediate Care Update: London National Elderly Care Conference. June 2003.

Appraisal- an update. GMC symposium on revalidation. Brighton. June 2003.

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Mentoring as part of induction for new consultants. Mentoring in Medicine Conference. Nottingham. April 2004

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Chronic Disease management. BGS Council Study Day. Basingstoke. July 2004

MMC post FP2. BGS Study Day. Basingstoke. July 2004

Designing care for older peoples. Emergency services conference. London July 2004.

The Modern Geriatric Day Hospital. Multidisciplinary Day. South East Kent hospitals.
Sept 2004

Geriatricians and Acute General Medicine. BGS Autumn Meeting . Harrogate Oct
2004

4. DOCUMENTATION

This Report is based on the following documents:

- [1] Full paper set of medical records of Gladys Richards (BJC/41)
- [2] Operation Rochester Briefing Document Criminal Investigation Summary.
- [3] Hampshire Constabulary Operation Rochester Guidance for Medical Experts.
- [4] Commission for Health Improvement Investigation Report on
Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust at Gosport War Memorial Hospital
(July 2002).
- [5] Palliative Care Handbook Guidelines on Clinical
Management, Third Edition, Salisbury Palliative Care Services (1995);
Also referred to as the 'Wessex Protocols.'

5 CHRONOLOGY/CASE ABSTRACT. (The numbers in brackets refer to the page of evidence, the numbers with 'H' in front are the Haslar notes).

- 5.1. Gladys Richards was a 91 year old lady and in 1998 was admitted as
an emergency on 29th July 1998 to the Haslar Hospital (H39).

5.2.

Code A

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5.3.

5.4.

5.5.

5.6.

5.7.

Code A

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5.8.

Code A

5.9.

5.10.

Code A

5.11.

5.12.

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on 21st August 1998.

5.13.

Code A

6. TECHNICAL BACKGROUND / EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS IN ISSUE

6.1.

This section will consider whether there were any actions so serious that they might amount to gross negligence or any unlawful acts, or deliberate unlawful killing in the care of Elsie Lavender. Also whether there were any actions or admissions by the medical team, nursing staff or attendant GP's that contributed to the demise of Mrs Lavender, in particular, whether beyond reasonable doubt, the actions or omissions more than minimally, negligibly or trivially contributed to death.

6.2.

6.3.

Code A

6.4.

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6.5.

6.6.

Code A

6.7.

6.8.

6.9.

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Code A

6.10.

6.11.

6.12.

I understand the post mortem and the cause of death said:

1a Bronchopneumonia.

In my view the correct Death Certificate would have said:

1a Fractured Neck of Femur

2 Severe dementia.

There is no doubt that after people have been dying over a number of days, if a post mortem is performed, then secretions and changes of Bronchopneumonia are often found in the lungs as the very final agonal event. This allows clinicians to put the phrase "Bronchopneumonia" on the death certificate.

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Unfortunately, under current guidance to Coroners if 'fractured neck of femur' is written on the death certificate, then the Coroner has little option but to perform a post mortem as the death is deemed to be non accidental. Where patients have not died immediately after a fractured neck of femur, some Coroner's Officer's encourage clinicians to leave 'fractured neck of femur' off the death certificate to save the relatives the potential trauma of a post mortem. I believe this is poor national practice, but it is not a specific criticism in this case.

7. OPINION

- 7.1. Gladys Richards presents an example of a common, complex problem in geriatric medicine. A patient with one major progressive and end stage pathology (a dementing illness) develops a second pathology, has surgery, has a complication after that surgery, has more surgery and gradually deteriorates and dies.
- 7.2. In my view a major problem in assessing this case is poor documentation in Gosport Hospital in both the medical and nursing notes, making a retrospective assessment of her progress difficult. Good Medical Practice (GMC 2001 states that "Good clinical care must include an adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and symptoms and if necessary an appropriate examination"....."in providing care you must keep clear, accurate, legible and contemporaneous patient records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients and any drugs or other treatments prescribed". "Good clinical case must include – taking suitable and prompt action when necessary".... "Referring the patient to another practitioner when indicated"...."in providing care you must – recognise and work within the limits of your professional competence"..."prescribe drugs and treatments, including repeat prescriptions only where you have adequate knowledge of the patients health and medical needs". The lack of detail in the medical notes, the absence of evidence of asking for advice on 17th August and the lack of recording why decisions were made or if the patient was properly examined present poor clinical practice to the standards set by the General Medical Council. In particular, I am concerned the anticipatory prescription of Opioid analgesia on her admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. If no justification for this can be identified or proven, then I believe that this was negligent practice and may have contributed to her fall on the ward. I also believe that the dose of Diamorphine, in particular, prescribed on the 17th August, was sub optimally high. However I do not believe this contributed in any significant way to Mrs Richards death and that her death was by natural causes.

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8 LITERATURE/REFERENCES

1. Good Medical Practice, General Medical Council 2002
2. Withholding withdrawing life, prolonging treatments: Good Practice and decision making. General Medical Council 2002.
3. Palliative Care, Welsh J, Fallon M, Keeley PW. Brocklehurst Text Book of Geriatric Medicine, 6th Edition, 2003, Chapter 23 pages 257-270.
4. The treatment of Terminally Ill Geriatric Patients, Wilson JA, Lawson, PM, Smith RG. Palliative Medicine 1987; 1:149-153.
5. Accuracy of Prognosis, Estimates by 4 Palliative Care Teams: A Prospective Cohort Study. Higginson IJ, Costantini M. BMC Palliative Care 2002;1:129
6. The Palliative Care Handbook. Guidelines on Clinical Management, 3rd Edition. Salisbury Palliative Care Services, May 1995.

9. EXPERTS' DECLARATION

1. I understand that my overriding duty is to the court, both in preparing reports and in giving oral evidence. I have complied and will continue to comply with that duty.
2. I have set out in my report what I understand from those instructing me to be the questions in respect of which my opinion as an expert are required.
3. I have done my best, in preparing this report, to be accurate and complete. I have mentioned all matters, which I regard as relevant to the opinions I have expressed. All of the matters on which I have expressed an opinion lie within my field of expertise.
4. I have drawn to the attention of the court all matters, of which I am aware, which might adversely affect my opinion.
5. Wherever I have no personal knowledge, I have indicated the source of factual information.
6. I have not included anything in this report, which has been suggested to me by anyone, including the lawyers instructing me, without forming my own independent view of the matter.
7. Where, in my view, there is a range of reasonable opinion, I have indicated the extent of that range in the report.
8. At the time of signing the report I consider it to be complete and accurate. I will notify those instructing me if, for any reason, I subsequently consider that the report requires any correction or qualification.
9. I understand that this report will be the evidence that I will give under oath, subject to any correction or qualification I may make before swearing to its veracity.

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10. I have attached to this report a statement setting out the substance of all facts and instructions given to me which are material to the opinions expressed in this report or upon which those opinions are based.

10. STATEMENT OF TRUTH

I confirm that insofar as the facts stated in my report are within my own knowledge I have made clear which they are and I believe them to be true, and the opinions I have expressed represent my true and complete professional opinion.

Signature: _____ Date: _____