

**RESTRICTED**

Form MG11(T)

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: EDMONSON, MICHAEL JAMES

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: FLIGHT LIEUTENANT NURSING

This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: MJ Edmondson

Date: 07/07/2000

I am the above named person and I reside at the address as stated overleaf.

I am a member of the Royal Air Force and I believe I was stationed at the Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport, Hampshire, between January 1997 and January 1999. I say believe, because I can't remember the exact dates but in any case I have been I have been asked to comment on events at Haslar during August 1998, and can confirm that I was definitely there during that period. At that time I was the nursing officer in charge of Ward E3.

I have been asked to comment on a patient who was on Ward E3 between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 1998 (17/8/1998), by the name of Gladys RICHARDS. I have examined copies of the patients medical notes from the period she was on Ward E3, but I'm unable to recall this particular individual.

I can say however that as the officer in charge I would have been on the ward rounds with the registrar and any decision to discharge a patient is discussed jointly between the registrar, myself and other medical staff.

I have looked at an original letter which I wrote, dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 1998 (17/8/1998) which bears the identification reference LH/1/C/6 and is addressed to the nurse in charge, Daedalus Ward, at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I can confirm that this letter was written by me. The letter would have been written based on information I would have received from the ward rounds, discussions with other medical staff and notes in the patients medical records.

I refer to a copy of Gladys RICHARDS ward notes which bears the identification reference AF/1/C/87 and an entry timed at 0700am on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1998 (17/8/1998) which states "...assisted to sit out on commode..." I would judge from this entry that the patient was able to sit in a chair and was able, with assistance, to transfer from bed to chair. I have been shown a

Signed: M J Edmondson

Signature Witnessed by: **Code A**

2004(1)

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Continuation of Statement of: EDMONSON, MICHAEL JAMES

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copy of a patient transfer request form marked as document 65 and can confirm that this form was written by me. I have indicated on this form that the patient is able to travel in a chair and this would have been based on the information I have already commented on with regard to the patient being able to transfer from bed to chair. I can not recall this patient and therefore am unable to say whether or not I was present when the patient was discharged.

The policy in place at Haslar at that time, for the movement of a patient from bed to a trolley was by means of a PATSLIDE, which is a recognised method of transferring a patient from a bed to either a trolley or stretcher. This method involves the inserting of a board beneath the patient and lower bed sheet and they are slid sideways onto the trolley/stretcher.

In conclusion all I can say in relation to my letter (LH/1/C/6) is that we must have been satisfied with the closed hip relocation and recommended further re-mobilisation.

We would not have transferred anyone who's medical condition was visibly deteriorating.

In order to clarify a point I would like to add that in relation to the copy of document 65 I have already commented on, because I am unable to recall this patient I am not in a position to say if Gladys RICHARDS was in fact moved by chair as indicated on the form or by stretcher.

I have only commented on the patslide method of moving a patient because I have been asked to explain the ward policy that was in place at that time.

Signed: M J Edmondson  
2004(1)Signature Witnessed by: **Code A****RESTRICTED**