

Expert Review

Margaret Queree

No. BJC/38

Date of Birth: Code A

Date of Death: 10 October 1994

Mrs Queree was admitted to the Queen Alexander Hospital in May 1994 where she underwent surgery for pelvic abscesses. She had a permanent colostomy put in place. She was transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 29 July 1994 for rehabilitation. As noted by the experts, Mrs Queree had significant medical problems prior to her operation and both urine and vaginal infections after the operation. She became frail and confused and was commenced on Morphine Sulphate. After three days she was then started on a high dose of Diamorphine via a syringe driver with a fivefold increase in the relative dose over two days.

The experts confirm that in their view she died of natural causes. The use of opiates and sedation was rapidly increased although this appears to be reasonable in response to the distress demonstrated by the patient.