

Expert Review

Code A

No. BJC/37

Date of Birth: **Code A**

Date of Death: 3 December 1998

Code A lived at Addenbroke Residential Home at the time of her admission to the Royal Haslar Hospital to undergo surgery for a fractured neck of femur.

Following the operation on 26 October 1998 and the insertion of a dynamic hip screw, she was admitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation on 11 November 1998.

At Gosport War Memorial Hospital Dr Naismith noted there was a readiness to move quickly from a single dose of Co-codamol to Oramorph in doses of 5 to 10mgs which was given twice most days. Mrs Purnell became very drowsy on Oramorph and from that point her renal functions seem to have diminished.

The syringe driver was started with 20mgs of Diamorphine which was three times the dose **Code A** was receiving orally. At this point she appeared comfortable although semi conscious.

The experts have considered this case to be a natural death albeit that the treatment was sub optimal and that the dose of opioids was markedly escalated in her final few days.

Dr Lawson notes that in his opinion **Code A** would have died in any event without opiates being used. The medical records make note of the concerns expressed by **Code A** son as to the treatment that was being provided to his mother.