

Witness Statement: Mrs Jenny Brewer - Staff Nurse Daedalus Ward

The following statement was taken by Code A Investigating Officer on 3rd September 1998.

Q1. How long have you worked on Daedalus Ward as 'D' grade Staff Nurse?

A. Since December 1996.

Q2. Did you have any involvement in the care of the late Mrs Gladys Richards?

A. Yes on Wednesday 13th August 1998 I was on late shift and after 15.30 hrs - the only trained nurse on duty. I was not the named nurse for Mrs Richards.

Q3. Code A

A. Yes.

Q4.1 Can you describe what happened and the action you took.

A. See attached statement.

Q4.2 Can you explain why you did not fully complete the Accident Form?

A. As I was busy with Dr Lord - a colleague completed some of the details for me and I signed it - I admit I did not complete all the details and Philip filled in parts that had not been completed.

Q5. Did you ask the Duty Doctor to visit Mrs Richards?

A. **Code A**

Q6. How would you describe Mrs Richards mental state while she was on Daedalus Ward?

A. Code A

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Q7.

**Code A**

A. Yes - when she visited tea-time approximately I was completing the medicine round. I did not telephone her immediately after the fall as I felt it better to see her face to face.

Q8. What did you say to her?

A.

**Code A**

Q9. Were you on duty for the evening drug round?

A. Yes.

Q10. Did you ask Mrs Lack if she thought her Mother was in pain?

A. Yes. Mrs Lack's reply was "not at the moment I am feeding her" - it was at this point I informed her of her Mothers fall. After this Mrs Lack did say her Mother was in pain (see Question 19).

Q11. Who put Mrs Richards to bed that evening?

A.

**Code A**

Q12. Did you have any further involvement with Mrs Richards after the day of the **Code A**

A. Yes - only very little - she was not my patient.

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Q13. Were you on duty when Mrs Richards was transferred back from Haslar?

A. No - I was a day off. I next saw Mrs Richards on Tuesday 18th August 1998 - I was on a late duty i.e. 12.15 pm - 9 pm (see attached).

Mrs Lack spoke to me whilst I was in the sluice, she was angry - telling me that her Mother "was walking yesterday at Haslar - she is here today and dying". My response was sympathetic - said I was sorry and maybe the journey from Haslar had upset her.

Q14. Were you aware of the disappearance of Mrs Richards clothing?

A. No.

Q15. Were you aware that the family agreed to do her washing?

A. Not aware - as Mrs Richards was not my patient.

Q16. Were you on duty on 19th August 1998?

A. Yes.

Q17. Did you ask the family to take Mrs Richards clothes away?

A. No.

Q18. Were you aware of the family's concerns regarding the standard of care their Mother received?

A. Yes.

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Q19. Do you have anything else to say?

A. Yes - concerning Mrs Lacks account of events, page 1 Mrs Lack refers to speaking to trained and untrained staff - there was only 2 trained staff on duty - S.N Joice and myself

**Code A**

**Code A**

I did ask Mrs Lack if she thought her Mother to be in pain, she responded by saying "no - I am feeding her". At this point I did inform Mrs Lack that her Mother had had a fall - I had not previously phoned her as I wanted to see her face to face. After I informed her of her Mother's fall - she sought me out (I was still doing the medicine round) and informed me her Mother was in great pain. I told Mrs Lack I would come back and make an assessment with Mrs Richards on the bed - Mrs Lack asked me not to put her on the bed.

**Code A**



Statement by S.N J Brewer

Re: Mrs Gladys Richards - Patient Room 3 Daedalus Ward  
Gosport War Memorial Hospital

**Code A**

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I commenced the Stroke Round with Dr Lord, S.N Joice was on duty for the Ward and I believe she was extremely busy.

I did not telephone Mrs Richards daughter about the accident as I knew she was due to visit and would rather tell her face to face.

I finished the Ward Round at approximately 16.50 hrs. I then had to interview relatives of new patients, one of whom was very ill. I also had to do the Drug Round, finish admitting the new patients and document the results of the round in the nursing notes. A very demanding schedule for which I had to prioritise the most essential work

# Code A

was satisfied with this and she answered "Yes" and thanked me. I told her that I would keep her informed.

**Code A**

**Code A**

I left the Ward at 21.30 hrs as I had further paperwork to complete and Mrs Richards was sleeping comfortably.

On 14.8.98 I was a Day Off but came to the Ward at 06.30 hrs to deal with something unrelated to my ward work

My Ward Manager was due on at 07.30 hrs and I went to the Ward Office to convey the facts to him about Mrs Richards. Whilst I was there Mrs Richards daughter telephoned and I informed her that her Mother had spent a comfortable night which she had. I also told her that

**Code A**

Dr Barton had arrived by then and was writing the Request Form.

I then went home. My Ward Manager later telephoned me and informed me that Mrs Richards had a **Code A** and that she had gone to Haslar Hospital.

15.8.98 - I worked over the weekend - Mrs Richards was still at Haslar Hospital.  
It was my day off on 17.8.98 and I believe that Mrs Richards returned to the Ward to Room 4.

I reported for duty at 12.15 am on 18.8.98 and took report. Mrs Richards was in bed and she **Code A** was not in charge of the Ward on this shift.

As I commenced my work Mrs. Richards daughter stopped me in the corridor by the sluice. "What do you think of this" she said. "My Mother was walking at Haslar yesterday and now she's back here she's dying". I was distressed that she felt like this and politely tried to explain that I felt that all the coming and going from Haslar to Gosport had not done her frail mother's condition much good. Mrs Richards daughter just shrugged her shoulders and walked off.

I had no more contact with her after this day.

**Code A**

S.N J Brewer RGN

9-9-98.

.....Date