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The News 27/11/04

## Hospital deaths investigation goes on

DETECTIVES are still investigating 28 deaths of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

But this week they have written to 28 other families to tell them they can find nothing suspicious in the death of their loved one.

That is in addition to another 34 families told earlier this year that there was no criminal case for staff to answer relating to the death of their relative.

by **Nick Brooks**  
Health reporter

It is believed that 27 files rejected by officers have been passed to the General Medical Council instead, but no disciplinary action has been taken.

The total of 90 deaths between the late 1990s and 2002 probed by officers working on Operation Rochester is Hampshire's biggest-ever inquiry.

A panel of medical experts is still checking the hospital

records of the dead patients to see whether any staff may have been 'criminally culpable'.

Families have claimed that uncontrolled, excessive doses of the painkiller morphine were given to their relatives.

Operation Rochester is the latest police probe into dozens of deaths at the Gosport hospital after concerns were raised in 1998 by relatives of an elderly patient.

Hundreds of staff have been interviewed by detectives.

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