



CATEGORIES TV RADIO COMMUNICATE WHERE I LIVE INDEX SEARCH

Go

BBC NEWS

You are in: England

News Front Page Wednesday, 3 July, 2002, 14:43 GMT 15:43 UK

World
UKEngland
N Ireland
Scotland
Wales
PoliticsBusiness
Entertainment
Science/Nature
Technology
Health
Education-----
Talking Point-----
Country Profiles
In Depth-----
Programmes**BBC SPORT****BBC WEATHER****BBC NEWS****SERVICES**Daily E-mail
News Ticker
Mobile/PDAs-----
Text Only
Feedback
Help**EDITIONS**
Change to World

Hospital doctors 'put patients at risk'



Hampshire Police investigated the deaths in 1998

Doctors at a Hampshire hospital regularly over-prescribed powerful pain-killers, according to a report.

The investigation into Gosport War Memorial hospital followed the deaths of nine elderly patients in 1998.

The report could not confirm whether any patients died as a result but said that patients were "put at risk".

A report published on Wednesday by the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) found the use of pain-relieving and sedative drugs may have been "excessive".

The CHI concluded that patients on Daedalus and Dryad wards were most affected by the hospital's actions.

Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust - which ran the hospital at the time - has been criticised for not reviewing procedures earlier.

The CHI says that the police investigation, patient complaints and internal data should have alerted the Trust to problems.

Peter Homa, the CHI's chief executive, said: "Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust failed to have the appropriate systems in place in 1998

The hospital failed to recognise a potential risk to patients, many of whom were frail, older people**Peter Homa, CHI chief executive****BBC Southampton**
WHERE I LIVE >>**See also:**22 Apr 02 | England
Family complain over hospital inquiry
03 Apr 01 | Health
Hospital death under investigation**Internet links:**Hampshire police
Commission for Health Improvement

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Top England stories now:Baby unlawfully killed by parent
Barrymore faces perjury investigation
Charlton star defends Henry
Protest boats near nuclear cargo
Officers bailed on porn charges
PC 'filmed punching man'
Car charge angers US embassy
Teenager cleared of drug smuggling**Links to more England stories are at the foot of the page.**