

Fareham and Gosport 
Primary Care Trust

**DECISION NOT TO SUSPEND THE TWO NURSES INVOLVED IN THE
MEDICATION ERROR AT GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

FILE NOTE 2

1. Following the incident on the 22nd October 2003 on Dryad Ward at Gosport War Memorial Hospital a decision not to suspend the two nurses concerned, Leena Verghase and Christine Robertson was taken following due consideration of the issues.

The rationale for the rejection of a decision to suspend was due to the actions, which were taken, minimising any risk to either patients or the nurses themselves from continued working on the ward. It is my view that these actions minimise the risk to such a degree, that there was no danger to patients or to the staff themselves.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Both nurses are being supervised with all medication.
- Drug competence packs will be completed with a formal assessment on completion.
- Syringe driver training with company representative will be arranged for all staff on the ward, who have come in and not undertaken this.
- Leena and Christine will not work on the same shift together.
- Every attempt will be made to ensure that Christine and Lena work with more senior nurses in the ward, and they will not be left in charge. Chris Robertson has requested a downgrade, to a D grade, for the period of her re-training, and this has been done with support from her union rep and management.
- Both nurses appeared to have fully understood the severity of the error.
- Competency plans have been put in place with both of these nurses (based on the Overseas Nurses Adaptation Programme) and additional issues raised by the relative, the clinical manager and Chris herself.
- The reporting flaws in this kind of situation have been reinforced with senior staff.
- Both nurses will be given the opportunity to work with mentors.

2. This issue was subsequently referred to the coroner and via the coroner to the police, who became involved at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on Friday 24th October 2003. The checking nurse and the doctor were to be interviewed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on Wednesday the 29th October 2003 and Christine Robertson, the administering nurse was to be interviewed at Gosport Police Station on the 30th October 2003 under caution.

Arrangements were made at this time to ensure the staff were supported. In the case of Christine Robertson with an RCN solicitor and the in case of Dr Davis and Leena Verghase a Trust solicitor. At this point the decision to suspend was again considered and rejected.

The reason for the rejection, at this stage was that the actions taken above, under 1, were still considered to ensure there was no risk to patients or indeed the staff themselves.

The statements of the three individuals along with the police's report have been referred to CPS, and this decision will be reviewed again following the outcome of the CPS's deliberations.

DATED 3rd day of November 2003

Code A

Fiona Cameron
Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance

Fareham and Gosport 
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