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06 DEC 2001

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3 December 2001

Lesley Humphrey
General Manager
Department of Medicine for Elderly People
QAH

Dear Lesley

Thank you for your letter concerning the use of 'Continuing Care' beds at St Christopher's which you have agreed with Ian and David. In essence these will be used for people 'awaiting NH placements' from either Fareham as a priority or from elsewhere in the district. This is a decision which I understand from a managerial perspective, but would simply like to confirm a number of clinically important issues.

- 1) For Fareham Social Services to accept a referral (never mind visit the patient) can take six weeks in a community hospital like St Christopher's so expected increases in efficiency may not arise.
- 2) I have assumed Social Services Departments from Havant, Portsmouth, etc are happy to come out to St Christopher's to see patients at St Christopher's and have agreed to these plans. Could you confirm please.
- 3) For audit purposes I need to inform you that because of pressures of work and changes in patient conditions things are not quite as simple as your letter makes out for my colleagues in the district hospital. For example, 2 of the last 4 patients have been for 'bed and board' due to extensive orthopaedic external immobilisation devices. We will do our best with these patients but you need to be aware that trying to do higher activity rehabilitative work in a continuing care service can lead to problems. I am content you are aware of these risks and managerially are accepting them.

Thanks for keeping me informed of your decisions.

Kind regards

Code A

Professor Martin Severs
Head of School

cc David Jarrett John Kirtley
 Fiona Cameron Tony Warnes
 Ian Reid Dr Lord