

Mr. D. Thomas,
Coroner's Office,
Kingston Crescent Police Station,
North End,
PORTSMOUTH.
PO2 8AA

MM/YJM

12 February 1996

4378

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Mrs. Ivy Smith, Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Further to my letter of 7th February and your telephone call of 8th February, 1996 I enclose the statements made by Code A

Yours sincerely,

Code A

Max Millett
Chief Executive

Copy to: Mr. W. Hooper
Mr. T. Wright

Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust
13 FEB 1996
General Manager, Fareham/Gosport

Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust
- 9 FEB 1996
General Manager, Fareham/Gosport

Mr. D. Thomas,
Coroner's Office,
Kingston Crescent Police Station,
North End,
PORTSMOUTH.
PO2 8AA

MM/PAG/YJM

07 February 1996

4378

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Mrs. Ivy Smith, Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Following the discussions which have taken place between your office and Mr. Bill Hooper, Divisional Manager for Fareham and Gosport, I am enclosing a copy of the report of the internal investigation carried out following the administration of a controlled drug in error to Mrs. Smith.

The evidence from the investigation is that the trained nurse responsible for administering medicines on the night in question acted in contravention of the Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses by failing to identify the patient correctly and by failing to give the controlled drug herself. The nurse fully acknowledges her error and took immediate and correct action as soon as she realised what she had done.

In the light of the findings of the report the Trust will be taking the following action:

1. Both the trained nurse and the health care support worker involved in the incident will be formally counselled.
2. Local nursing policy with regard to drug administration will be reviewed in the light of this incident and circulated to all nursing staff.
3. Ways of identifying hospital patients who require continuing care and who may not be able to identify themselves will be investigated. (Currently patients in long stay areas do not wear identity bracelets but it is hoped that a method of identification which preserves a person's dignity can be used.)

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4. A copy of the investigation report will be sent with a covering letter to Mrs. Smith's relatives.

Obviously we are very concerned that an incident of this nature has occurred. It is our understanding that the issuing of the drug to the wrong patient was human error. However, we will, as indicated above, be reviewing internal policies to see if we can minimise the risk of this type of incident recurring.

Could I also point out that the report has been produced for internal use and is not intended for general publication. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Code A

Max Millett
Chief Executive

Copy to: **Mr. W. Hooper**
Mr. T. Wright