

Text for letter to Code A prior to PPC

I am writing to inform you that the NMC has received letters of complaint in which you are named, and to explain:

- What the NMC has done with these complaints in the past; and
- What will happen next.

The complaints are as follows:

1. While involved in the care of Mrs Wilkie in August 1998:
 - a) On 17 August 1998, you made a false entry in the nursing notes of Mrs Wilkie in that you recorded "Condition has generally deteriorated over the weekend Daughter seen – aware that mums condition is worsening, agrees active treatment not appropriate and to use of syringe driver if Mrs Wilkie is in pain", when Mrs Wilkie's daughter had not agreed that active treatment was appropriate and/or agreed to the use of a syringe driver.
 - b) You failed to ensure that a pain assessment was carried out in respect of Mrs Wilkie
 - i. when Mrs Wilkie's daughter complained about her mother's pain on 17 August 1998 and/or
 - ii. before starting subcutaneous diamorpine on 20 August 1998.
 - c) You failed to ensure that Mrs Wilkie's records were full and accurate in that:
 - i. they contained an entry stating that a syringe driver had been started at 13.50 on 20 August 1998 when it had not in fact been started until after 13.55;
 - ii. there was no record that Mrs Wilkie had blood in her catheter bag on 21 August 1998;
 - iii. they contained a statement that Mrs Wilkie's family were with her when she died on 21 August 1998 when they had not been;
 - iv. they contained a statement that Mrs Wilkie had died on 21.20 on 21 August 1998 when she had died at 18.30 on 21 August 1998.
 - d) You failed to prevent Mrs Wilkie from being started on inappropriate medication, namely subcutaneous diamorphine, hyoscine and midazolam, or alternatively, to ensure that she was started on an appropriate dose.
2. While involved in the care of Mr Carby in 1999, you failed to ensure that appropriate care was given to Mr Carby.

3. While involved in the care of Mrs Middleton in 2001, you failed to ensure that appropriate care was given to Mrs Middleton.

These complaints fall to be dealt with in accordance with the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors (Professional Conduct) Rules 1993 Approval Order 1993.

Complaint 1 above (re: Mrs Wilkie) complaint was considered by the NMC's Preliminary Proceedings Committee ("PPC") on 24 September 2002, along with other complaints from members of the public about other nurses at the GWMH.

The complaints in respect of Mr Carby and Mrs Middleton have not yet been considered by the PPC.

The NMC did not inform you of the complaints against you at the time they were received because this was not required under the rules and procedures in place at that time.

On 24 September 2002, the PPC decided to adjourn consideration of the complaints it had considered, including Mrs Jackson's complaint in respect of Mrs Wilkie, pending completion of a police investigation into a number of deaths at the GWMH.

That investigation concluded in 2007 with a decision not to bring any criminal charges.

There then followed a coroner's inquest into the deaths of ten patients at the GWMH, which concluded recently, and a General Medical Council hearing into allegations of misconduct against a doctor.

Now that those inquiries are complete, the NMC is in a position to continue its consideration of these matters.

All matters will be put before the PPC on [date]. Under Rule 8(3) of the Professional Conduct Rules, there are a range of options open to the PPC on that date, including:

- Declining to proceed with the matter;
- Requiring further investigations to be conducted;
- Adjourning consideration of the matter.

If the PPC considers that the allegations may lead to removal, it will issue a notice of proceedings and invite you to respond in writing to the notice. In this event the case will be listed to come back to the PPC for a second consideration in light of any response you may make to the notice. However, it is open to you to make a preliminary written response to the allegations at this stage, and any letter you write will be made available to the PPC at its first consideration of the case. Any such response should reach me within [?] days of the date of this letter.

I enclose a bundle of documents that will be considered by the PPC.

Enclosed with this letter is an information sheet which describes the procedures of the PPC and offers you some advice. Please read this document carefully.

You are reminded to keep the NMC informed of any change of address.

Any queries regarding this matter should be directed to **Code A** on **Code A**
Code A