

Expert Review

Alice Clifford

No. BJC/11

Date of Birth: Code A

Mrs Clifford was ninety-six at the date of her admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Prior to her admission she was living at Warren Park Rest Home and was fully dependent on nursing care.

She was noted to have Type II diabetes and a catheter in situ.

The reason for admission to hospital on 14 July 1998 was to provide rehabilitation following an arthroscopic washout of septic arthritis. On admission Mrs Clifford was noted to having a necrotic area on her left calf together with necrotic right and left heels. On 15 July 1998 she was noted to be in discomfort when moved and was given Oramorph. By 18 July 1998 Mrs Clifford was recorded as being in increasing pain and was given Diamorphine 20mgs for pain management.

The notes record clear evidence of severe and increasing pain and Mrs Clifford was commenced on a syringe driver with 60mgs of Diamorphine on 20 July 1998.

On 21 July 1998 Mrs Clifford deteriorated rapidly. She was noted as being comfortable and free of pain prior to her death.

The expert review of this case noted that there was clear evidence of increasing doses of rescue analgesia where pain was not being controlled. A sensible and appropriate increase in syringe driver doses of Diamorphine were utilised. In summary this was a natural death which was appropriately managed and good clinical notes were made to record the progress of the treatment given to this patient.