

Expert Review

Jack Williamson

No. BJC/54

Date of Birth: Code A

Mr Williamson was aged eighty at the date of his admission to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 29 August 2000.

His previous history had included ischaemic heart disease and he had suffered for many years with leg ulcers. He had been admitted to hospital on a number of occasions and had had skin grafts taken to improve his legs.

Mr Williamson eventually underwent bilateral below knee amputations on 18 August 2000 following which he was transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital for rehabilitation and, moreover, to be with his wife who was there having been diagnosed with cancer.

Prior to his amputation he was on Morphine Sulphate 40mgs twice a day and needing Oramorph 10mgs for breakthrough pain although this was stopped post operatively.

On 31 August 2000 it was noted that his right stump area was sloughing and by 11 September 2000 there was oozing from both stumps. Microbiological testing confirmed MRSA in the wound on 16 September 2000 and consideration was given as to whether to transfer Mr Williamson to the surgical team at Haslar.

On 17 September 2000 Mr Williamson's condition deteriorated and it was considered that he was unlikely to survive much longer. He was commenced on Oramorph 2.5mgs four hourly. Mr Williamson died at 21.55 p.m. on 18 September 2000.

The expert review of this case has confirmed that he was only given very small doses of analgesia appropriately at the correct dose.