

---

**DRAFT REPORT**

regarding

**OVERVIEW OF THEMES IN CASES:**

BJC/45

BJC/34

BJC/72

BJC/30

BJC/67

BJC/21

BJC/71

BJC/16

BJC/55

BJC/15

---

**PREPARED BY: Dr Andrew Wilcock MB ChB FRCP DM**  
**Reader in Palliative Medicine and Medical Oncology**

**AT THE REQUEST OF: Hampshire Constabulary**

**CONTENTS**

- 1. INSTRUCTIONS**
- 2. DOCUMENTATION**
- 3. THEMES IDENTIFIED**

## 1. INSTRUCTIONS

To identify themes arising in the standard of care afforded to the ten patients examined to date in the days leading up to their death against the acceptable standard of the day.

## 2. DOCUMENTATION

This Report is based on the documents outlined in the following reports:

- Draft Report regarding Enid Spurgin (BJC/45), Dr A Wilcock, 5th March 2006
- Draft Report regarding Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34), Dr A Wilcock, 28th March 2006
- Draft Report regarding Helena Service (BJC/72 and JR/16), Dr A Wilcock, 28th March 2006
- Report regarding Elsie Lavender (BJC/30), Dr A Wilcock, 1st May 2005
- Report regarding Ruby Lake (BJC/67), Dr A Wilcock, 23rd August 2005
- Draft Report regarding Sheila Gregory (BJC/21 and JR/12), Dr A Wilcock, 30th July 2006
- Report regarding Leslie Pittock (BJC/71), Dr A Wilcock, 25th April 2005
- Report regarding Elsie Devine (BJC/16), Dr A Wilcock, 10th December 2004

- 
- Draft Report regarding Robert Wilson (BJC/55), Dr A Wilcock, 21st May 2006
  - Draft Report regarding Arthur Dennis Brian Cunningham (BJC/15), Dr A Wilcock, 27th September 2005

### 3. THEMES IDENTIFIED

*Failure to keep clear, accurate, and contemporaneous patients records which report the relevant clinical findings, the decisions made, the information given to patients and any drugs or other treatment prescribed*

Including:

- at time of transfer to Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
- whilst at GWMH [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]

*Lack of adequate assessment of the patient's condition, based on the history and clinical signs and, if necessary, an appropriate examination*

Including:

- inadequate assessment on transfer to Gosport War Memorial Hospital, for example:
  - no mention of pain as a problem or a pain history [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake

- (BJC/67) Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
  - o no mention of symptoms relating to heart failure being a problem [Helena Service (BJC/72); Ruby Lake (BJC/67)]
  - o no neurological assessment [Elsie Lavender (BJC/30)]
- inadequate assessment whilst at Gosport War Memorial Hospital:
  - o when patient's condition may have changed due to a potentially reversible cause [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55)]
  - o cause of death on death certificate lacking sufficient supporting clinical evidence [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Robert Wilson (BJC/55)]

***Failure to prescribe only the treatment, drugs, or appliances that serve patients' needs***

Including:

- use of oral morphine in doses difficult to justify [Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55)]
- *prescription* of diamorphine and midazolam in large dose ranges by syringe driver that were difficult to justify [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]

- use of a fentanyl patch in a dose difficult to justify [Elsie Devine (BJC/16)]
- lack of access to small doses of analgesics to be used as required [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
- dose of diamorphine administered in my opinion that was difficult to justify and/or likely to be excessive [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
- effects present that could relate to excess diamorphine [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Robert Wilson (BJC/55)]
- dose of midazolam administered in my opinion that was difficult to justify and/or likely to be excessive [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Elsie Devine (BJC/16); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
- effects present that could relate to excess midazolam [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Elsie Devine (BJC/16)]
- potential lack of appropriate medical care [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Elsie Devine (BJC/16)]

- potentially beneficial drugs discontinued without apparent reason [Helena Service (BJC/72); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15)]
- views expressed by other expert witnesses (where available):
  - shared concerns [Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Robert Wilson (BJC/55)]
  - differing views [Helena Service (BJC/72); Elsie Devine (BJC/16)]

### **Failure to consult colleagues**

Including:

- Enid Spurgin (BJC/45) – orthopaedic surgeon, microbiologist
- Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34) – general physician, gastroenterologist
- Helena Service (BJC/72) – general physician, cardiologist
- Elsie Lavender (BJC/30) – haematologist
- Sheila Gregory (BJC/21) – psychogeriatrician
- Leslie Pittock (BJC/71) – general physician/palliative care physician
- Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15) – palliative care physician.

### **Patient's prognosis**

- likelihood of patient entering a 'natural' irreversible terminal decline:
  - unlikely – Enid Spurgin (BJC/45); Geoffrey Packman (BJC/34); Elsie Lavender (BJC/30)
  - difficult to judge (significant co-morbidity present) – Helena Service (BJC/72); Ruby Lake (BJC/67); Sheila Gregory (BJC/21); Elsie Devine (BJC/16)
  - likely – Leslie Pittock (BJC/71); Robert Wilson (BJC/55); Arthur Cunningham (BJC/15).

---

Note: prognosis is difficult to accurately judge and it is best to consider the above an indication, in my opinion, of which end of a spectrum a patient would lie rather than a more definite classification.