

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

Page 1 of 4

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: ROBINSON, BARBARA FRANCES

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: INVESTIGATING OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: B F ROBINSON

Date: 02/03/2006

I am the above named person and I live at the address shown overleaf. I trained as an SRN Nurse between 1964 and 1967 at the Royal Free Hospital in London. My registration number with the Nursing and Midwifery Council is 67K2679E.

Having qualified as a staff nurse I worked at the Royal Free and as a sister from 1969 - 1971. I then worked as a district nurse in London from 1971 -1972. I then worked as a ward sister at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Folkestone between 1972 and 1973. I then had a gap whilst I started a family.

In 1981 I worked as a district nurse in Portsmouth and in 1982 I moved to Gosport, as a district nurse. I did this until 1987. I then worked as an assistant community nurse manager in Fareham from 1987 - 1990. After this I worked as a neighbourhood nurse manager for West Fareham until 1994. From 1994 I managed St Christopher's Hospital in Fareham which is an elderly care hospital. I also arranged the out of hours district nursing service for Portsmouth and S E Hampshire. In 1996 I became the service manager for Fareham and Gosport Elderly Services. I was based at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. This included the management of St Christopher's Hospital and all the elderly mental health services for Fareham and Gosport.

I worked at the GWMH until 2000. As service manager my role was to manage both the GWMH and St Christopher's Hospital. I was responsible for nursing, administration and clerical staff as well the catering staff, cleaning staff, chaplains and other non medical staff.

Signed: B F ROBINSON
2004(1)

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Continuation of Statement of: ROBINSON, BARBARA FRANCES

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 2 of 4

I worked closely with the medical staff. I had two deputies, Sue HUTCHINGS and Bridget HOWES. As a manager within the NHS I studied with the Open University and I obtained certificates as an effective manager, managing change and accounting on the personal computer. I also hold a degree in community studies which included management modules and care of the elderly modules. Whilst at the GWMH I also undertook the National Facilitators Certificate for the NHS.

I would describe general nursing care at the GWMH as excellent. The hospital had very much a community feel with both the staff and the patients. Patients were not left in beds, there were large day rooms with access for both beds and wheel chairs. This meant people were not isolated. Both Dryad and Daedalus had an activities co-ordinator.

There was access to both occupational therapy which prepares people to go home and good physiotherapy.

I was aware of the use of both syringe drivers and diamorphine at the GWMH. As service manager I liked to get out onto the wards. I spoke with staff, patients and their families. I never heard anyone raise any concerns about the use of syringe drivers or diamorphine.

I was aware of two complaints with regard Gladys RICHARDS and the mother of a Mr WILSON. I was not involved in the investigation of these matters. I can say that as a result of these investigations other staff did not come forwards to voice concerns.

I have been asked about the following medical procedures. I can state that we did not use venflons and giving sets for intravenous infusions, nor did we use bags of saline 5% dextrose for intravenous infusions. We did not use these because we did not have a resident medical officer. The use of oxygen was prescribed by the consultant or clinical assistant but in an emergency a nurse might use it for resuscitation purposes.

An ECG machine was available and this was used all over the hospital by a trained technician or doctor. Blood transfusions would not be given at the GWMH. I am unable to say if intravenous

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RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Continuation of Statement of: ROBINSON, BARBARA FRANCES

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 3 of 4

antibiotics were ever given. If they were it would have been done by a doctor.

In the event of a medical emergency the staff would administer first aid and then ring 999 for an ambulance.

At no stage whilst I was at the GWMH did I ever have any complaints with regard the conduct of Gill HAMBLIN or Dr BARTON in relation to medical procedures or any other matter.

I am not aware of any concerns prior to 1996 regarding syringe drivers or training needs. I did ask every ward to prepare a training needs plan which either I or the ward sisters implemented. This includes syringe driver training. This was part of the basic core skills for qualified nurses at the GWMH.

I have been asked directly about any issues between Code A and Gill HAMBLIN. I was aware they did not get on. Code A tended to think Gill would not try out new ideas. Code A was a member of staff I had to manage quite a bit. She found fault in other staff and felt her ideas were the best. She never complained about syringe drivers or diamorphine with regard Gill HAMBLIN. Code A was quite a highly strung lady who was very critical.

Gill HAMBLIN was the ward sister of Dryad Ward and also the continence advisor for the hospital. I think she also advised on wound care.

Dr BARTON was the Clinical Assistant for both Dryad and Daedalus Ward. She would be in at 0730 Monday - Friday and visit both wards. If the staff rang she would come back in. The role of Clinical Assistant was paid by the session but it was not a full time role. Dr BARTON was very attentive to patient needs and always came in when called. I would describe her as an excellent doctor. She was also a part time GP in a local surgery. She was held in high regard by staff, patients, other GP's and indeed the local community. It was of note that the service was never as good when she was on leave.

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Continuation of Statement of: ROBINSON, BARBARA FRANCES

Form MG11(T)(CONT)

Page 4 of 4

I have been shown exhibit BJC/89 the admission book for Dryad Ward 97/03. I understand that this was a book filled out by a ward clerk. I don't think this was a role that would have been done by a doctor.

In March 2000 I was asked to transfer to the Department of Medicine for Elderly People based at the QA Hospital and St Mary's in Portsmouth. This was as a promotion and I became Chief Nurse for older people services. This included supervising the senior staff in the elderly mental health services across the district.

I retired in March 2004, I currently take on investigations on behalf of the Fareham, Gosport and East Hampshire Primary Care Trusts.

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