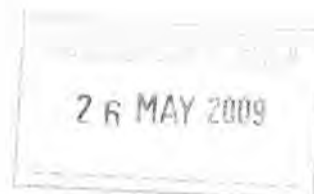


Dr Morag Horne
Medical Adviser

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H M Coroner
Mr David C Horsley
Guildhall
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AJ



23 March 2009

Dear Mr Horsley

Our Ref: S2009GB00875 and S2009GB01043, Mrs E Lavender, Age: 83

You may recall that I wrote to you in March 2009 regarding a media report that an inquest is being held into the deaths of 10 elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in regard to concerns about prescribing levels of diamorphine and other drugs. In the media report, one of the 10 patients was identified as Mrs Elsie Lavender, age 83. Unfortunately I cannot locate a reply to that letter and hope you do not mind me writing to you again about this.

The safety of patients taking our products is our paramount concern and as marketing authorisation holder for diamorphine we would be very interested to receive further details about these patients and the outcome of the inquest. It is only by obtaining detailed information about adverse drug events that we are able to analyse the cumulative data to detect early signals of emerging safety issues. In addition we have a statutory obligation to report adverse events suspected as related to Novartis products to the regulatory authorities (the MHRA in the UK).

I would therefore be very grateful if you could provide further details about these patients including copies of the post mortem reports, if available. I have enclosed a copy of our suspect adverse drug reaction form for Mrs Lavender which details the information we would be interested to receive and further copies can be provided for the other patients, if appropriate. Please be assured that any information received will be treated in confidence.

Thank you for your assistance with this enquiry, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Code A



Dr Morag Horne MB ChB, MSc
Medical Adviser

Drug Safety and Epidemiology

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