

Statements and Key Messages

Potential verdicts and ramifications (10 separate verdicts)

Verdict	What it means	Ramifications
Open verdict	Coroners investigation is inconclusive	An open verdict would give families further potential mileage to pursue this further.
Accidental death	No insinuation of wrong doing, but Rx of drug for example may have partly caused or quickened the death of patient	We would need to clarify the implications of this with regard to the care provided to exonerate staff and practice.
Lawful killing	Death was the result of the appropriate cause of action i.e. Rx diamorphine for pain relief may have quickened death but overall death was result of the natural disease process.	We would need to clarify the implications of this with regard to the care provided to exonerate staff and practice.
Unlawful killing	Patient's death was the result of wilful intention.	Highly unlikely as police investigations have found no evidence of any criminality surrounding the deaths.

Key Messages

Hampshire PCT support the Inquest as a valuable opportunity for the families of the deceased to establish how their loved one

The NHS and governance has changed across the UK since 1998

Hampshire PCT strongly refutes that there was any intent in relation to the unfortunate deaths of these inpatients at GWMH.

1. That the public confidence in the services provided by the NHS in South East Hampshire is preserved.

2. To protect the reputation of the local NHS by ensuring balanced media coverage wherever possible
3. To support staff affected and staff working in GWMH during media and community interest in the case
4. That the public perception is that the NHS is responding to the inquests, rather than four individual organisations.
5. That the value of Gosport War Memorial Hospital to the local health community is promoted, and the public perception of the hospital and its services is enhanced.
6. To ensure that the Coroner's verdict is seen as the closure of the cases and that the local community, key stakeholders and staff perceive a positive future for GWMH

Statements

This inquest is concerned with the deaths of people who were in-patients on Dryad and Daedalus wards, at Gosport Ward Memorial Hospital (GWMH) between 1996 and 1999. These deaths came to police and public attention through a complaint made by a relative in 1998.

GWMH Pain management policy

Rehabilitation vs. palliative

CHI

Police investigations

Closing Statements

Chairman Hampshire PCT Richard Samuel

Three police enquiries and an independent coroner's Inquest have failed to find any evidence of criminality, intent or wrong doing with regard to the medical practice at the hospital.

The NHS in the area has complete sympathy for the families concerned and has fully supported the inquest process and its necessity for the families.

However as an organisation we now wish to draw a line under the events of the late 1990s and focus on the provision of services in today's health care environment. We want to reassure the local population about the quality and standard of care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and across Hampshire.

The NHS and medical practice in the 1990s can not be compared to the current day model. We have since seen the introduction of clinical governance, policies, protocols and developments in practice.

Staff at the hospital treated patients according to appropriate and accepted practice at the time.

We have taken many learnings on board since the events of the 1990s and the CHI review and medical services in the area and the care provided by the NHS at GWMH and across Hampshire is excellent.