



The Health Service Ombudsman

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Health



In England



In Scotland



In Wales

Ombudsmon Y
Gwasanaeth Iechyd

HSC—Investigations Completed December 2000 — March 2001

Part I—Summaries of Investigations Completed

Hospital, Community Health Service and Ambulance Trusts

Case No.E.2313/99-00

Adequacy of medical and nursing care and dosage of morphine

*Complaint against Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust***Summary of case**

After undergoing an operation on a broken hip at another hospital Mrs A was transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital in October 1998. She died of bronchopneumonia on 3 December. Her son was concerned that she was given excessive doses of morphine during November and that she did not receive reasonable medical and nursing care and was allowed to become dehydrated. The Ombudsman noted that Mrs A had appeared to her son to be improving up to the time that she was transferred, so it was understandable that he was greatly upset by the changes that happened soon after. However, the Ombudsman accepted the professional advice he received that Mrs A's medical management was appropriate and that her nursing needs were systematically assessed and met. In particular, she had been in a great deal of pain and the pain relief she was given was appropriate and necessary for her comfort. The Ombudsman did not uphold the complaint



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