

From: Mike.Evans@ [Code A]
Sent: 06 November 2003 17:05
To: Baker, Prof R.
Cc: Janet.Walden@ [Code A]
Subject: RE: report

Dear Richard

CMO had a meeting recently where the issues raised in your report were discussed. There was one issue which I was asked to clarify with you, relating to the sentence "...the findings tend to indicate that the finding of a statistical excess of deaths among patients admitted to Gosport would be unlikely."

If I understand this correctly what you are saying is that you would expect to find roughly the same number of deaths if you conducted a similar audit in comparable hospitals elsewhere (and of course you make the point that it was not possible to identify comparable hospitals). So in essence Gosport is unlikely to have seen more deaths than it should (statistically speaking). Does this analysis apply to Dryad and Daedalus wards (or others for which Dr B was responsible)? Very grateful if you could confirm/expand a little on this.

I also wondered about the converse of this, which may go to the question of practice at the time. Do we know how many people were discharged from the relevant wards as a proportion of those admitted? Can we draw any conclusions about the type of patient who was discharged in terms of their treatment (including the use of opiates and whether there was evidence of routine use for these patients) or illness?

I suspect that some of this may be able to be determined from your report (for example discharges are included in table 5.6) and apologise for asking if it is otherwise clear.

Incidentally, reading the paper more closely I did wonder about the figures given on the total amount in mgms of diamorphine recorded as administered during terminal illness (page 91 final para). You say that the mean given for Dr B's patients was 113 mgms in comparison with 1300 mgms for the other doctors. To a lay eye a ten-fold difference does seem significant: very grateful if you could explain what this means.

I am not in the office now until Tuesday if you wanted to have a word - although Janet Walden@ [Code A] will be here on Monday.

Regards

Mike Evans

[Code A]

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