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Sent: 21 April 2009 10:37

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Subject: News Round Up: April 20

Categories: To do

Dear all,

Please find today's news round up grid below.

Media April 20	Headline – click to view	Story
Southern Daily Echo	Gosport War Memorial Hospital patients were given wrong medication	AN inquest jury today ruled that three elderly patients who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the late 1990s were given inappropriate medication.
Southern Daily Echo	Sophie will open new breast screening unit	STAFF at a Winchester hospital are preparing for a Royal visitor this week.
Portsmouth News	NHS apology far too late, says grieving son	The NHS yesterday apologised to families of elderly patients whose deaths were partly caused by overdoses of medication.
Portsmouth News	Police to consider new evidence of inquests	Hampshire's police force will only consider reopening an investigation into the deaths of patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital once it has reviewed a report from the coroner.
Portsmouth News	Make deaths report public, say families	A report which raised fears of a 'culture of involuntary euthanasia on the wards' was never seen by the jury.
Portsmouth News	GMC investigates doctor at centre of inquests case	The General Medical Council said it was carrying out an investigation into whether Dr Jane Barton was fit to practise as a GP
Portsmouth News	Hospital labelled 'death ward'	Gosport War Memorial Hospital

		(GWMH) became known as the "end of the line" and as "death ward" as families saw their loved ones checked in apparently on the road to recovery only to die a few days later.
Portsmouth News	Jury still out in hospital deaths inquest	An inquest jury probing the deaths of 10 elderly patients at a Gosport hospital amid allegations of over-prescribing painkillers has begun a third day of deliberations.
BBC South Today	Relatives react to Gosport inquest	An inquest into the deaths of 10 elderly patients at the Gosport war Memorial Hospital has found that inappropriate medication contributed to the deaths of three patients.
BBC South Today	Inquest sparked by mother's death	On the day an inquest jury finds that five patients who died at a Hampshire hospital were prescribed too much morphine, BBC South speaks to Gill MacKenzie who lodged the first complaint with police after her mother, 91, died at the hospital.
BBC South Today	'Fury' over wait for ambulance	A Hampshire woman with a broken hip is angry after she is made to wait two hours for an ambulance.
ITV	Morphine deaths inquiry call	The families of elderly hospital patients given excessive doses of drugs demand a public inquiry.

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests have been covered by:

BBC Radio Solent	BBC Radio Scotland	BBC Radio Northamptonshire
BBC Radio Stoke	Sky News	BBC Radio Five Live
BBC Radio Sheffield	BBC News	Five News
BBC Radio 4	BBC Radio York	BBC Radio Wales
BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire	BBC 1	ITV 1
BBC Radio Merseyside	BBC 1 South	BBC Radio 1
BBC Radio Bristol	Channel 4	ITV Meridian
More 4		

The communications team reviews the following newspapers' websites daily: Daily Echo (Southampton), Daily Echo (Bournemouth), The News (Portsmouth), Forest Journal, Hampshire Chronicle, Romsey Advertiser, Basingstoke Gazette, Aldershot News, Farnborough News, Alton Herald, Petersfield Herald, Petersfield Post, Bordon Post, Bordon Herald, Surrey and Hants Star, Andover Advertiser, Fleet News, Sandhurst News and Mail, Yateley News and Mail, BBC South Today and ITV Meridian.

Top National Health Stories

BBC Online	Fears over web health revolution	Concerns are being raised about the use of the internet and new technologies to revolutionise
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		health,
BBC Online	Baby resuscitation 'linked to IQ'	Children resuscitated at birth are more likely to have a low IQ by the age of eight, a study concludes.
BBC Online	Chemists to start diet pill sales	A pill said to help dieters lose extra pounds is to go on sale over the counter in the UK for the first time.
Statements issued by the communications team		
Southern Daily Echo – wanted a statement on Dr Briggs being struck off	<p>Helen Clanchy, director of primary care at NHS Hampshire said: “We welcome the decision of the Fitness to Practice Panel of the General Medical Council (GMC). “Dr Briggs was a single-handed GP in Hythe until September 2004 when he was suspended from the New Forest Primary Care Trust’s (a predecessor organisation to Hampshire Primary Care Trust) Medical Performers List whilst an investigation was undertaken. Medical services were provided at the practice by the Primary Care Trust.” Dr Briggs subsequently retired but remained suspended from the Performer’s List (this prevented him from acting as a GP).</p> <p>“The GMC suspended him in December 2004 for an initial period of 18 months and maintained the suspension pending the decision of the Fitness to Practice Hearing.</p> <p>“During the last year, NHS Hampshire has worked closely with the Support Solent Surgery (S3) group, local representatives and clinical advisers to produce the best permanent solution for the practice and its patients. This process is due to conclude very soon.”</p>	
A statement was issued in regards to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests.	<p>Director of Performance and Standards for NHS Hampshire, Richard Samuel, said;</p> <p>“We have fully supported the Coroner’s inquests as a valuable opportunity to review the events of the late 1990s and we sympathise with the families for the uncertainty they have felt around the circumstances of their relatives’ death.</p> <p>“It is important for everyone involved in the care of these patients that five verdicts indicate that the medication used to treat and relieve their symptoms did not contribute to their deaths.</p> <p>In two verdicts, whilst contributing to death, medication was appropriately given.</p> <p>it is a matter of regret to the NHS that three verdicts indicate that in the mid/late 1990s the medication administered to these patients has been found to have contributed to their deaths. However, in those cases it was found to have been given for therapeutic purposes.</p> <p>“NHS Hampshire will be now be contacting these families but I would also like to take this opportunity to apologise to the families concerned on behalf of the NHS for any treatment or care which has been found to have contributed to the deaths of their loved ones.</p> <p>“Since the late 1990s the systems and policies in place at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have undergone a complete overhaul. I can assure the families and local people that all the issues highlighted by these inquests have been addressed and the care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital today is of the highest standard.”</p>	

Many thanks
Laura

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