


Coroner criticises medication prescribed at Gosport's ...



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It follows the death of a pensioner in 1998

An inquest into the death of a pensioner who died at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital nearly 15 years ago has criticised the medication she was given.

Gladys Richards was treated there after a fall and later died after she was given painkillers.

Portsmouth Coroner David Horsley delivered a narrative verdict that said the diamorphine the 91 year old was given contributed "more than insignificantly" to her death.

Hampshire police previously conducted a criminal investigation into the deaths of 92 elderly patients at the hospital but no prosecutions were brought.

The seven-day inquest heard that Dr Jane Barton, who has previously been found guilty by the General Medical Council (GMC) of professional misconduct at GWMH, had prescribed levels of diamorphine for the nursing staff to administer in case Mrs Richards' condition deteriorated.

The Coroner for Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, ruled that the cause of death was bronchopneumonia.

He added: *"Factors contributing more than insignificantly to her death due to bronchopneumonia were:*

"Accidental falls which she sustained at Glen Heathers Nursing Home in Lee-on-the-Solent on the 29th July, 1998 and at Gosport War Memorial Hospital on August 13, 1998.

"Procedures undertaken at Haslar Hospital, Gosport to treat the injuries she suffered as a result of those falls.

"Her immobility subsequent to those procedures.

"Medication administered to her at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for the control of her pain and agitation.

"Her old age, frailty and end-stage dementia."



