

OAP was given correct course of medication at Gosport War Memorial Hospital



PATIENT Gladys Richards

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THE consultant who referred Gladys Richards for rehabilitation following a hip operation, believes she was given the correct dosage of painkillers.

As previously reported, an inquest is being held into the death of Mrs Richards, of Lee-on-the-Solent, at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in August 1998.

The 91-year-old had a hip operation at Royal Haslar Hospital in Gosport and was transferred to GWMH for rehabilitative care.

But after she suffered a haematoma (bruised blood), Mrs Richards, was given diamorphine administered through a syringe driver (a device which continuously administers drugs) and died five days later.

Dr Richard Reid, now retired, worked as a consultant in geriatrics at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, in 1998.

On the second day of the inquest of Mrs Richards, Dr Reid gave evidence.

He had seen the 91-year-old in the former Royal Haslar Hospital to assess her and see if she was ready for rehabilitation.

He agreed she would be alright for rehabilitation.

The court also heard from Alan Jenkins, who is representing Dr Jane Barton, about how she would see patients and their families in ward rounds, after hours.

She would normally have an hour to visit 40 patients over two wards, but would stay on to ensure she saw everyone.

Dr Reid said: 'She was assiduous in her care and duty.'

The amount of painkillers prescribed has also been discussed.

Dr Reid said: 'I feel it was entirely appropriate and reasonable.'

'I think it was unlikely to be responsible for her demise.'

Professor Robin Ferner, an independent medical expert hired by Mrs Gillian is currently giving evidence.

The inquest, which is expected to last for nine days, continues



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