

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: TUBBRITT, ANITA

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: SENIOR STAFF NURSE

This statement (consisting of 9 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: A TUBBRITT

Date: 25/10/2004

I am Anita TUBBRITT and I reside at the address detailed overleaf. I am employed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Bury Road, Gosport, Hampshire as a Senior Staff Nurse (Night Staff).

I have held the position of Senior Staff Nurse for seven years. I have been employed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for seventeen years and have always been part of the night staff.

During 1999 as a Senior Staff Nurse I worked 'flexi nights', which involved me working two nights one week and then 3 nights the following week. At this time this was usually around the end of the week and weekends. I usually worked my duties around Fiona WALKER, who in 1999 was Night Sister', she would generally work Sunday to Wednesday and I would generally cover Thursday to Saturday.

During my period of duty it would be usual that I was the Senior Nurse on duty for the whole of Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

On 31st October 2002 (31/10/2002) I made a statement to the police regarding concerns that I had in 1991 regarding the use of syringe drivers and diamorphine at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. This statement is made further to my statement of 31st October 2002 (31/10/2002).

I have been asked what involvement I had in the treatment and care of a patient called 'Elsie

Signed: A TUBBRITT
2003(1)Signature Witnessed by: Code A

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DEVINE'. I have been told that Mrs DEVINE was a patient at Gosport War Memorial Hospital from the 21st October 1999 (21/10/1999) to 21st November 1999 (21/11/1999) and that she was on Dryad Ward of the hospital.

I first wish to state that I have no personal recollection of a patient called 'Elsie DEVINE' whatsoever.

I have been allowed to examine a set of medical records bearing the name 'Elsie DEVINE' and the exhibit reference BJC/16.

I have not as far as I am able to see contributed in anyway to these records by making any written entry on them.

I have also been shown a 'Ward Controlled Drugs Record Book' for 'Dryad Ward' which is marked 'Commenced June 1999'.

From my examination of this book I have found in total six entries relating to diamorphine administered to Elsie DEVINE on 19/11/99 (19/11/1999), 20/11/99 (20/11/1999) and 21/11/99 (21/11/1999).

By referring to exhibit BJC/16/PG/279&280 which is a prescription sheet bearing the name of Elsie DEVINE. I note that Mrs DEVINE was prescribed 40mgs to 80mgs of diamorphine by sub cutaneous route over 24 hrs on 19th November 1999 (19/11/1999) together with 20mgs to 80mgs of madazolam by the same route.

I note that these drugs were administered together on 3 occasions on 19/11/99 (19/11/1999), 20/11/99 (20/11/1999) and 21/11/99 (21/11/1999).

On 19th November 1999 (19/11/1999) the drugs are shown as having been administered by Jill HAMBLIN (Nursing Sister) and on 20th November 1999 (20/11/1999) and 21st November 1999 (21/11/1999) by Beverly TURNBULL (Staff Nurse).

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In 1999 Jill HAMBLIN worked days shifts as Ward Sister and Beverly TURNBULL worked as a Staff Nurse on the night shift.

Diamorphine is a controlled drug which requires to be registered in the Ward Controlled Drugs Record Book.

I note that on page 4 of this registrar I show as 'witnessed by' on two entries of diamorphine administered by Beverly TURNBULL on 20th and 21st November 1999 (21/11/1999) of 10mgs of diamorphine and on page 16 in the 'witnessed by' column on two entries of diamorphine administered by Beverly TURNBULL on 20th and 21st November 1999 (21/11/1999) of 30mgs of diamorphine.

On each occasion my signature appears in the 'witnessed by' column and on each occasion the diamorphine was administered to Elsie DEVINE.

Diamorphine at that time was not available in 40mg ampoules therefore it was necessary to use a 10mg and 30mg ampoule on each occasion to make up the 40mg prescription.

I note that the entries in the Controlled Drugs Record Book are timed at 0735 hrs on 20/11/99 (20/11/1999) and 0715 hrs on 21/11/99 (21/11/1999). These times were just before handover from night to day shift.

The administering of diamorphine on prescription requires the presence of two trained staff.

My role as Senior Staff Nurse on nights required me to visit each of the six wards of the hospital and respond to any calls to the wards if there was a particular problem or an action that required supervision by a senior member of staff.

On each occasion a controlled drug is given to a patient a number of checks need to be made during the course of withdrawing the drug from store through to administering the drug to the

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2003(1)Signature Witnessed by: Code A

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patient. By signing in the 'witnessed by' column I am saying that I was present throughout each of these checks and that I am in agreement that each check has been carried out correctly.

The checks carried out include:

That the correct drug is withdrawn from store.

That the correct amount of the drug is prepared and checked against the prescription sheet.

And that the correct drug in the correct amount is given to the right patient at the right time and that the drug is in date.

It has been my practise and that of the night staff with whom I work that if controlled drugs such as diamorphine are required to be given during the night shift that the senior member of staff on duty is called and witnesses the above procedures. It would therefore normally fall to me during my period of duty. This was particularly so with patients on 'Dryad Ward' as this at the time was the ward on which I was based.

The most important part of the checks which I carried out would be to check the prescription sheet and ensure that it has been correctly filled out and signed by a doctor.

1. The prescription must be easily read (legible).
2. Dated.
3. Signed by the doctor.
4. Clearly state the route of administration.
5. That the drug has not already been administered for that time.

If any one of these criteria had not been fore filled then I would not allow the drug to be drawn from store and therefore not administered to a patient.

Had I have had any concerns regarding the administration of a drug to a patient then I would not administer the drug until I had the opportunity to discuss it with the prescribing doctor, another doctor or a senior member of staff. I also would not allow another member of staff to

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2003(1)

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administer any drug that I was not unhappy about a patient receiving.

Taken by:

Signed: A TUBBRITT
2003(1)

Signature Witnessed by: