

**Code A**

19/09/2002 10:41

To:

**Code A**

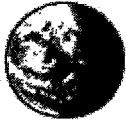
CC:

Subject: Update on Gosport War Memorial Hospital;

Forwarded by:

**Code A**

on 19/09/2002 10:46



**Code A**

**Code A**

19/09/2002 10:32

To:

**Code A**

CC:

Subject: HIOW-2002-0035 - Update on Gosport War Memorial Hospital;

To: Serious Untoward Incident Distribution List

Please find attached a confidential update on the current situation regarding Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

With kind regards

**Code A**

Communications Manager  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority  
Oakley Road, Southampton SO16 4GX

**Code A**

SERIOUS UNTOWARD INCIDENT HOTLINE:

**Code A**



hiow-2002-0035c - gwmh.doc

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Strategic Health Authority



Oakley Road  
Southampton  
SO16 4GX

## SUI Media & Briefing

Tel:  
Fax:

**Code A**

- Use this form to provide a briefing to Department of Health Media Centre and/or Directorate of Health and Social Care Briefing Unit.
- INFORMING MEDIA CENTRE:** During Office Hours this should be discussed with Health Authority comms and emailed to [mb-health-alert@doh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mb-health-alert@doh.gsi.gov.uk) (or if urgent telephone **Code A** or **Code A**) Outside Office Hours you may wish to get comms advice (contact **Code A** on **Code A**) before contacting the DoH the duty press officer on Pager **Code A**.
- INFORMING BRIEFING UNIT:** During Office Hours this should be emailed to **Code A** and **Code A** Outside Office Hours you should contact the DHSC Duty manager via Royal Berkshire Ambulance Control Room on **Code A** if you have an issue that you think needs urgent briefing that cannot wait until the next working day.
- A copy of this Media & Briefing Note should also be placed in the appropriate SUI file.

|  |   |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <b>SUI Code</b> (use this to help DoH/DHSC track progress with a specific SUI)   | <b>HIOW-2002-0035 – Gosport War Memorial Hospital</b><br><b>UPDATED WEDNESDAY 19 2002</b> |                            |
| <b>Date of making this report</b>  | 19 September 2002   |                            |
| <b>NHS Org Code, or Name of Organisation involved</b>  | Fareham and Gosport PCT<br>East Hampshire PCT   |                            |
| <b>Strategic Health Authority Reporting Officer</b><br>(name and contacts details)   | <b>Name:</b>  | <b>Code A</b>              |
|  | <b>Job Title:</b>   | Communications Manager     |
|  | <b>Telephone:</b>   | <b>Code A</b>              |
|  | <b>E-mail:</b>  |                            |
| <b>Strategic Health Authority Lead Officer</b><br>(name and contacts details)  | <b>Name:</b>  | Gareth Cruddace            |
|  | <b>Job Title:</b>   | Chief Executive            |
|  | <b>Telephone:</b>   | <b>Code A</b>              |
|  | <b>E-mail:</b>  |                            |
| <b>Name and contacts details for the NHS organisation involved</b>   | <b>Name:</b>  |                            |
|  | <b>Job Title:</b>   |                            |
|  | <b>Telephone:</b>   |                            |
|  | <b>E-mail:</b>  |                            |
| <b>Apparent outcome in terms of patient harm</b><br>(Please circle appropriate response)   | None/ Minor/ Moderate/ Major/ Catastrophic  |                            |
| <b>When did the incident occur?</b>  | <b>Date:</b>  | <b>Time (24 hr clock):</b> |
| <b>Where did the incident occur?</b><br>(Exact location and, where relevant, specialty)  | Not applicable  |                            |
| <b>Information about patients/carers etc. involved</b><br>(Patient description, NOT name(s), including gender and, where possible, age and ethnic group) |   |                            |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Information about staff involved</b><br>(Designations, NOT names)  |  |
| <b>What happened?</b><br>(Give a factual account of the incident, including a description of: any medical devices or equipment involved; and any medicines involved)  |  |
| <b>Other information not in the public domain</b><br>(Provide a brief overview of any other material factors that are not and should not enter the public domain, or indicate whether other information is available) | <p>The Chief Executive of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority, Gareth Cruddace, has spoken with Hampshire Constabulary Deputy Chief Constable Ian Readhead who has confirmed that he has forwarded a bundle of evidence including expert medical opinions and the CHI report to the Crown Prosecution Service for Treasury Council opinion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the deaths of 4 patients</li> <li>- whether the former Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust had failed in its duty of care to provide a safe environment</li> </ul> <p>He was appraised of the content of a new file of information which had been handed to Health Authority Senior Managers and this is now in his possession.</p> <p>He <b><u>strongly urged</u></b> that no proactive press statements should be issued until he had an opportunity to seek further advice.</p> <p>He was <b><u>extremely concerned</u></b> that a public response would elicit information regarding further possible deaths. If not handled correctly this may prejudice future criminal proceedings and investigations.</p> <p>The Health Authority's first approach to media enquiries will be to urge an embargo until there had been the opportunity to ensure that due process has been followed and also that staff have been informed. In extremis, a holding statement is available which will be issued in the event of pressing media enquiries.</p> <p>The Health Authority Chief Executive will have further discussion with the Deputy Chief Constable this afternoon.</p> <p>In the meantime all parties are advised to note the <b><u>strong reservations of the Deputy Chief Constable in relation to proactive press statements on this sensitive matter.</u></b></p> |
| <b>Describe any immediate action taken to protect and/or improve patient safety.</b>  |  |
| <b>Has, or will information on this incident be reported to any other agency/body?</b><br>(Specify).  |  |
| <b>Information about actual or likely media interest</b>  |  |
| <b>Information about "lines to take"</b><br>(include local and suggested national lines, if appropriate)  | <p>DRAFT LINE TO TAKE BY HEALTH AUTHORITY:</p> <p>The care and treatment of patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital has been the subject of investigations by the Commission for Health Improvement and the Hampshire Constabulary. Last</p>   |

week, the Government's Chief Medical Officer commissioned a clinical audit of the service concerned to be undertaken by acknowledged national expert Professor Richard Baker.

Additional information relevant to these matters has recently come to light and this information has been handed to the appropriate authorities.

Given the involvement in this matters over many years of Ian Piper, the Chief Executive of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, and Tony Horne, Chief Executive of East Hampshire Primary Care Trust, it has been agreed that they be temporarily redeployed to other duties to ensure that the ongoing investigation can command the full trust of local people.

We would like to reassure local people that whilst the CHI investigation had some serious concerns about services in the past it concluded that policies and procedures are now in place to ensure safe standards of care at the hospital.