

Code A

Code A

**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 01 November 2009 10:54  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 1 Nov 09  
**Attachments:** Picture (Metafile); Picture (Metafile)

## Press Cuttings Summary

Sunday 1 November 2009

### Direct Mentions

#### Print & Online Mentions

According to the Independent on Sunday, NHS whistleblowers are routinely gagged in order to cover up dangerous and even dishonest practices that could attract bad publicity and damage a hospital's reputation. An organisation called Public Concern at Work has said that two thirds of doctors and health workers are accepting non disclosure clauses in their contracts. The article mentions the GMC in a side box about Dr Shiban Ahmed, a paediatrician from the North Staffordshire hospital who has been suspended since March after raising the alarm about errors in children's operations. It says he complained for months to the GMC and BMA. An editorial accompanying the article says that gagging clauses should be outlawed by the Public Interest Disclosures Act but that whistleblowers are understandably reluctant to test this in court.

An article in The Mail on Sunday reports that Dr Gary Horn made serious errors when operating as a cosmetic surgeon as part of the Harley Street Medical Group. Patient Sarah Cound was left permanently disfigured by a breast reduction operation performed by the doctor. The article says that according to GMC records the doctor trained in France and at the time of the operation was listed as a 'General Surgeon'. It says that the GMC took no disciplinary action was taken against the doctor.

### Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions today.

### Letters pages and GMC published responses

There are no relevant letters today.

### Other News

A news article in the Independent on Sunday mentions that this week, the relatives of elderly patients who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital will meet with Norman Lamb MP, the Lib Dem health spokesman. The families and their lawyers are called on the government to launch an inquiry. Mr Lamb is reported to have said that failures by the police, CPS, NHS and health regulators can be exposed and lessons learnt only if there is an open and transparent inquiry.

There is widespread coverage of news that parents of a severely disabled one-year-old boy disagree over whether or not he should be taken off life support. The baby - known as Baby RB - suffers from a rare genetic fault which means his muscles are too weak for him to move limbs effectively or breathe unaided. Doctors believe he should be allowed to die. His mother is backing the hospital's bid to seek a High Court order to take the child off life support. But the father is fighting the move.

According to The Sunday Times, experts advising the Department of Health are expected to recommend that the mass vaccination of 10-18 year olds should begin at the end of the year. A separate article in the Sunday Times reports that concerns have been raised about the threat of swine flu to very young children after the number of underfives admitted to hospital with the virus more than doubled last week.

Also in The Sunday Times, The government in Switerland has announced plans to tighten regulations on assisted suicide in an attempt to crack down on "suicide tourism".

## Headlines:

GMC mentions

Independent on Sunday  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 1289

### NHS is paying millions to gag whistleblowers

NHS whistleblowers are routinely gagged in order to cover up dangerous and even dishonest practices that could attract bad publicity and damage a hospital's reputation. Some local NHS bodies are spending millions of taxpayers' money to pay off and silence whistleblowers with "super gags" to stop them going public with patient safety incidents.

NHS issues

Independent on Sunday  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 149

### Families call for inquiry into Gosport hospital deaths

The Government will this week come under further pressure to hold a public inquiry into deaths of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital during the 1990s, as relatives and lawyers meet with Norman Lamb MP, the Lib Dem health spokesman. Failures by the police, CPS, NHS and health regulators can be exposed and lessons learnt only if there is an open and transparent inquiry, according to Mr Lamb.

Miscellaneous

News of the World  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 507

### DAD FIGHTS MUM FOR BABY'S LIFE

The parents of a one-year-old boy who needs a ventilator to breathe are locked in a battle with each other over their severely disabled baby's right to life. The baby - known as Baby RB - suffers from a rare genetic fault which means his muscles are too weak for him to move limbs effectively or breathe unaided. Doctors believe he should be allowed to die. His mother is backing the hospital's bid to seek a High Court order to take the child off life support. But the father is fighting the move. If the hospital is successful, it will be the first time a British court has agreed to a request from an NHS trust - against the will of a parent - to withdraw life support for a child not suffering brain damage.

Doctors

The Sunday Times  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 412

### Doctors plan mass swine flu jabs for under-18s

Government advisers are preparing for the mass vaccination of school children to stop the spread of swine flu.

End of Life

The Sunday Times  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 98

### Suicide watch

The government in Switerland has announced plans to tighten regulations on assisted suicide in an attempt to crack down on "suicide tourism".

GMC mentions

The Mail on Sunday  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009  
Number of words : 1663

I'm not gullible, but I was seduced into my breast op by a Harley Street address. After £17,000 of surgery, I feel deformed  
Barney Calman claims to have been seduce into her breast op by a Harley Street address. After £17,000 of surgery, she feels deformed.

NHS issues

Independent on Sunday  
Delivery date : 01/11/2009

Number of words : 751

Whistleblowers welcome

Faltering steps towards openness in the public service have been taken over the years, yet there is still so much farther to go. The Freedom of Information Act tilted the presumption in favour of disclosure - to such an extent that MPs were caught unawares by their own law over their expenses claims. And the Public Interest Disclosure Act of 1998, the so-called whistleblowers' charter, is supposed to protect public servants that report mistakes, maladministration and corruption. But in practice, the Act is a long way from an effective mechanism for encouraging honest and open feedback from people working at the front line.

Miscellaneous

The Sunday Telegraph

Delivery date : 01/11/2009

Number of words : 487

Father challenges doctor's application to let baby son die

A father is fighting moves by a hospital to withdraw the medical support that is keeping his baby son alive. Doctors want to take the one-year-old, born with a rare neuromuscular condition, off the ventilator that allows him to breathe. Their application is supported by the child's mother, who is separated from his father.

Miscellaneous

The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 01/11/2009

Number of words : 301

Parents fight in court over life of disabled son

Two young parents are locked in a legal battle to decide whether their severely disabled baby will live or die.

Miscellaneous

The Sunday Times

Delivery date : 01/11/2009

Number of words : 437

Swine flu cases soar among under-5s

CONCERNS have been raised about the threat of swine flu to very young children after the number of underfives admitted to hospital with the virus more than doubled last week.

**Web links:**

**National Newspapers:**    **Other Regular Newspapers:**    **Medical Press:**

The Times    The Scotsman    Pulse

The Independent    The Herald    BMJ

The Guardian    The Press & Journal    HSJ

The Daily Telegraph    The Manchester Evening News    The Lancet

The Daily Mail    Irish News

The Daily Mirror    Belfast Telegraph

The Daily Express    News Letter

The Sun    South Wales Echo

The Financial Times    South Wales Evening Post

**Online Media:**    Western Mail    \_\_\_\_\_

The BBC    \_\_\_\_\_

Channel 4    \_\_\_\_\_

Sky    \_\_\_\_\_

**The Press Cuttings Website**