

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 15 May 2009 10:16
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 15 May 2009

Press Cuttings Summary

Friday 15 May 2009

Direct Mentions

Print Mentions

The *This is Cornwall* website mentions that the GMC is writing to ask doctors to decide if they will need to apply for a licence to practice, when the law changes later this year. The article was placed by the media team:
<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/news/City-doctors-require-licence/article-989517-detail/article.html>

The Independent reports on the forthcoming fitness to practise case of Dr Jane Barton who is alleged to have prescribed pain killing drugs to five patients, which contributed to their deaths.

The Northern Echo reports on the fitness to practise case of Dr Krishnan Prasad who was erased after conducting sexually motivated examinations on three women.

The *Evening Post* reports how a biomedical scientist is due to face a fitness to practise hearing at the Health Professions Council after claims that he set up a webcam in a bedroom used by nurses and doctors on call during the night. The article mentions that biomedical scientists are governed by the HPC, 'which was set up to protect the public with a similar role to that carried out by the General Medical Council for doctors...'

The *Manchester Evening News* carries further coverage on the statistics obtained by the Liberal Democrat party about the length and cost of disciplinary investigations and hearings into GPs' fitness to practise. The article mentions how a GP 'has been suspended for the entire three-year period at a cost of almost £310,000, while bosses await the results of a General Medical Council inquiry.' The article quotes Lesley Mort from Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT who said that whilst they would like to see improvements to the system, they 'understand the suspension of a GP is a necessary process designed to protect patients and the public while the General Medical Council investigates.' The article reports that 'the GMC said 94 per cent of its fitness to practise hearings were heard within 15 months.'

A letter written to the *Evening Standard* by Consultant Paediatrician Chris Hobbs refers to the issue of child protection and how 'child protection paediatrics is not well rewarded or supported.' He says that 'the professionals take the blame when things go wrong and complaints to the General Medical Council and attacks from hostile lawyers are par for the course.'

HSJ (14 May 09)

- Locum agencies have warned that the introduction of 'Responsible Officers', who will liaise with the GMC on whether a doctor's skills are up to date, will increase staffing costs they cannot afford and could be passed back to the NHS.

Pulse (13 May 09)

- The son of Code A who died after a prescribing error from German doctor Code A criticises the GMC over the way they register doctors who have been trained overseas. Mr Gray notes: "The GMC seems to be registering doctors from overseas without really understanding the qualifications they have...I can't believe they looked at Dr Ubani's certificates in detail". The Press Office will be issuing a response to this.

GP (15 May 09)

- **Code A** the son of the man who died after being given an overdose of medicine by **Code A** talks to *GP* about the need for enhanced checks on foreign trained doctors coming to work in the UK. Dr Gray says: "The GMC does not know how many foreign doctors are practising in this country".
- The magazine reports on statistics that show public bodies are more likely to report foreign-trained doctors (25%) to the GMC than their UK trained counterparts (14%). The article mentions that the research commissioned by the GMC from the Economic and Social research Council looking into this is expected later this year. Paul Philip, GMC Director of Standards and Fitness to Practise is quoted: 'If you look at public body referrals only, there is no doubt there is an over-representation of overseas graduates'.
- An article looks at responsible officers, who these people will be and the duties and competencies they are expected to fulfil and the concerns that some people have raised about their introduction.
- The medico-legal column discusses the issue of doctors acting as a 'Good Samaritan' and quotes from *Good Medical Practice* about the GMC's expectation that doctor's offer assistance in an emergency. According to a survey by the Medical Defence Union, 40% of 127 doctors have acted in such a capacity during their careers.
- A doctor who tends to a local Rugby Team talks about what this entails and mentions that a requirement from the club was that he held GMC registration.
- An article reports how the GMC is to publish a document answering frequently asked questions on the subject of revalidation. GMC Chairman Professor Peter Rubin is quoted as saying that the GMC wanted to 'make sure people have the facts rather than speculate without them'. Paul Buckley, GMC Director of Revalidation and Education also said that the process was intended to be 'as straightforward as it can be' and that 'it should be something doctors can do almost without noticing'.

An Indian doctor writes about arriving in London and how he took and passed his PLAB exam at the GMC:
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/338/may14_1/b1178

Broadcast Mentions

ITV Meridian South mentioned in brief yesterday afternoon that Dr Jane Barton is due to face a fitness to practise hearing at the GMC.

Times Letters page and GMC published responses

There are no letters to note.

Other News

The Press and Journal reports that an investigation is underway after a patient was wrongly given morphine that was intended for someone else.

A comment piece written by Joan Bakewell in *The Times* talks about Dr Philip Nitschke ("Dr Death") the euthanasia activist who has been travelling around the UK giving talks. She says that the doctor should have been welcomed to the UK because this is a subject that should be talked about 'before things get any more mixed up'. She refers to the RCN reviewing its guidance about what to do if a patient asks for help or information on assisted suicide.

HSJ reports how ministers have called on the Department of Health to make primary care trusts prove they are not spending extra funding for end of life care on other services.

The charity Sue Ryder Cancer Care has called on the government to do more to improve access to end of life care, in light of the report from the commons public accounts committee.
<http://www.communitynewswire.press.net/article.jsp?id=5783872>

There is an online story (*Onmedica*) about the BMA's Chair **Code A** writing to the Health Secretary about planned changes to the immigration laws. The BMA feels that any changes may restrict the number of foreign medical students who come to the UK to train: <http://www.onmedica.com/NewsArticle.aspx?id=64570bab-602d-4410-b3c2-1d7dd5faca21>

The *Scotsman* ran a feature on 14 May entitled 'The Good Doctor' focussing on Dr Christian Jessen, a doctor who appears on Channel 4's *Embarrassing Bodies*. Dr Jessen is quoted saying that 'The traditional doctor was a paternalistic figure who said 'Take the blue pills once a day and off you go.' That needs to change.':
<http://living.scotsman.com/features/Dr-Christian-Jessen-Interview-The.5264631.jp>

Headlines:

GMC

Evening Standard

Delivery date : 14/05/2009

Number of words : 451

Child protection is in crisis

Chris Hobbs, consultant paediatrician at St Ann's Hospital, Haringey from 1991 to 2002, writes to the Standard to say he was not surprised to see the papers report detailing the failings at the specialist child health clinic at St Ann's Hospital in the run-up to Baby P's death. Throughout his time at the hospital, he was the only consultant in his department, responsible for a population of children four times the recommended size. There was consistent understaffing in secretarial and administrative roles, with the result that records and correspondence were not being handled properly.

GMC

The Independent

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 370

Doctor to face hearing over patient deaths

A doctor who prescribed painkilling drugs to five patients, which contributed to their deaths at a hospital in Portsmouth, is facing a charge of serious professional misconduct. If found guilty, Jane Barton, who was the senior doctor in charge at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, may be struck off the medical register.

End of Life

The Times

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 1032

Why Dr Death should have been given a welcome in Britain

Editorial comment on assisted suicides

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 575

Providing care as a Good Samaritan

A recent MDU survey of 127 doctors revealed that more than 40 per cent have provided ' Good Samaritan' emergency care more than once in their careers. Mention is made of the General Medical Council.

GMC

Manchester Evening News

Delivery date : 13/05/2009

Number of words : 470

'Scandal' of £1.2m bill to pay suspended NHS staff NOT to work ...

In the last three years, health chiefs in Greater Manchester have paid out around £1.2 million to doctors and other staff suspended from work. The GMC said 94 per cent of its fitness to practise hearings were heard within 15 months.

End of Life

HSJ Health Service Journal

Delivery date : 14/05/2009

Number of words : 193

PCTs warned over misuse of end of life care cash

Ministers have called on the Department of Health to make primary care trusts prove they are not spending extra funding for end of life care on other services.

GMC

Pulse

Delivery date : 13/05/2009

Number of words : 146

Death of GP9s father sparks CIVIC criticism

A GP whose father died following a prescribing error by a German locum has joined leaders in the profession calling for an investigation into how the GMC registers overseas doctors.

GMC

The Northern Echo

Delivery date : 14/05/2009

Number of words : 81

Pervert GP is off medical register

A GP who abused his position to conduct sexually motivated examinations on three women was struck off the medical register yesterday by the General Medical Council.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 792

Rugby Super League dub doctor

A feature about the healthcare needs of Hull Kingston Rovers mentioning the General Medical Council.

NHS issues

The Press and Journal

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 386

Patient is given morphine in mix-up

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after a north-east patient was wrongly identified and given medication intended for someone else.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 283

UK must hold overseas doctors to account'

Foreign doctors working in this country should be held to account under UK law for any mistakes they make, says the GP whose father was killed by German doctor Code A Mention is made of the General Medical Council.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 113

Public bodies reporting bias

Public bodies are 'considerably' more likely to report overseas doctors to the GMC than their British peers.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 176

GMC to answer invalidation FAQs

The GMC is to publish a document answering frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the subject to revalidation.

GMC

GP Magazine

Delivery date : 15/05/2009

Number of words : 598

Concern over responsible office

The Department of Health has published detailed plans for the new role of responsible officers (ROs) -the senior doctors who will act as the link between local health organisations and the General Medical Council.

GMC

Evening Post

Delivery date : 13/05/2009

Number of words : 452

'Webcam set up in nurses room'

A hospital worker is facing an inquiry into claims he rigged up a webcam in a bedroom used by nurses and doctors on call during the night.

GMC

HSJ Health Service Journal

Delivery date : 14/05/2009

Number of words : 285

Responsible officers will increase staffing costs

Plans to create "responsible officers" to liaise between trusts and regulators will increase NHS staffing costs, locum agencies are warning. The General Medical Council is mentioned.

Web links:**National Newspapers:**[The Times](#)[The Independent](#)[The Guardian](#)[The Daily Telegraph](#)[The Daily Mail](#)[The Daily Mirror](#)[The Daily Express](#)[The Sun](#)[The Financial Times](#)**Online Media:**[The BBC](#)[Channel 4](#)[Sky](#)**Other Regular Newspapers:**[The Scotsman](#)[The Herald](#)[The Press & Journal](#)[The Manchester Evening News](#)[Irish News](#)[Belfast Telegraph](#)[News Letter](#)[South Wales Echo](#)[South Wales Evening Post](#)[Western Mail](#)**Medical Press:**[Pulse](#)[BMJ](#)[HSJ](#)[The Lancet](#)[The Press Cuttings Website](#)