

Code A

Code A

From: Code A  
 Sent: 02 February 2010 09:45  
 To: Press Cuttings  
 Subject: Press Cuttings - 2 Feb 10

## Press Cuttings Summary

Tuesday 2 February 2010

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### Direct Mentions

#### Print & Online Mentions

Hospital Dr features an overview of the GMC's business plan and strategy, noting the many changes which the GMC is currently undergoing. The article follows a press release issued by the media team:  
<http://www.hospitaldr.co.uk/features/the-gmcs-strategy-2010-to-2013-at-a-glance>

*Pharmaceutical Journal* (30 Jan 2010)

- There is a brief mention that the revalidation pilots have started.
- An article looks at the various systems and procedures implemented that are helping to measure the quality of pharmacy services. The recent, GMC-commissioned survey into prescribing errors by junior doctors is referenced.

*Wales Online* reports on the examination errors made at Cardiff Medical School and the "robust measures" that the University will be implementing following an investigation. The article quotes a GMC spokeswoman: "Cardiff University has significant progress to make to improve the way that student assessment data is managed in the School of Medicine. The University has begun to address these issues by introducing a series of measures to ensure this situation doesn't occur again. We have requested a detailed action plan from Cardiff University and we will need to be assured that, through robust implementation of the plan, there will be no repetition of these errors which had extremely serious consequences for the students involved. It is important that any wider lessons on student assessment are identified and shared with all medical schools, this is something we will be taking forward in the development of guidance for medical schools."

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/education-news/2010/02/01/early-exams-for-medical-students-after-cardiff-university-marking-blunder-91466-25736130/>

The *Solicitors Journal* includes a piece about an increase in claims on negligent cosmetic surgeons, noting that, while the GMC holds a specialist register for plastic surgeons, it does not hold one for cosmetic surgeons.

[http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/story.asp?sectioncode=3&storycode=15600&c=3&eclipse\\_action=getsession](http://www.solicitorsjournal.com/story.asp?sectioncode=3&storycode=15600&c=3&eclipse_action=getsession)

#### Fitness to Practise hearings and cases

There is widespread reporting in the print and online media that the fitness to practise hearing for Code A the paediatrician named in the Baby Peter case, has been confirmed (it will run from 22 February – 19 March 2010). The articles also mention that Code A attempted to apply for work in the Republic of Ireland, but failed to inform her prospective employers that she was undergoing a GMC investigation. The story is also mentioned on the BBC's website:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8492361.stm>

There are further regional and local press mentions from last week of the findings on fact for the Code A Code A Professor John Walker-Smith and Professor Code A hearing, announced last Thursday. The panel found that, for all doctors, the facts were "not insufficient to support a finding of Serious Professional Misconduct" against them and the hearing will progress to the next stage. Most of the articles are standard court reports, though Jeremy Laurance, writing in *The Independent*, asks if the lengthy duration of the hearing has been beneficial, with Friday's determination causing less damage than it might have done if announced two years ago.

The Lakeland Echo reports that clinicians in Cumbria are encouraging parents to vaccinate their children, following a rise in cases of measles. The article refers to research carried out by [Code A] and his fitness to practise proceedings at the GMC.

<http://www.lakelandecho.co.uk/news/GPs-urge-people-to-get.6031626.jp>

There is also further regional coverage from last week of the conclusion of the Dr Jane Barton hearing. Several family members associated with the case are critical of the GMC's decision to place conditions against the doctor's registration. This is also mentioned on the BBC's website:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8492428.stm>

The following fitness to practise hearings are also mentioned:

- Dr Puvaneswary Markandoo
- Dr Barbara Czaslowska
- Drs Hines and Timmis

<http://www.ilfordrecorder.co.uk/content/redbridge/recorder/news/story.aspx?brand=RECOOnline&category=newsilford&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsilford&itemid=WeED01%20Feb%202010%2016%3A35%3A32%3A300>

*The Belfast Telegraph* reports that a doctor named during an inquest into the death of Madeleine O'Neill has been referred to the GMC.

Jersey Insight reports findings from an investigation into the death of patient Elizabeth Rourke. Dr Dolores Moyano, who operated on the patient, faces an investigation by the GMC, according to the article:  
[http://www.jerseyinsight.com/news\\_1.aspx?id=0:11710&news=2:5440](http://www.jerseyinsight.com/news_1.aspx?id=0:11710&news=2:5440)

### Broadcast Mentions

BBC One's London News programme briefly mentioned yesterday evening that [Code A] the paediatrician involved in the Baby Peter case, applied for work in Ireland when subject to GMC proceedings.

S4C and BBC One Wales report on the errors at Cardiff Medical School that led to four junior doctors who failed an exam being told they had passed. Both reports note that the GMC expects a definite plan of action from the school to ensure this never happens again.

BBC Somerset reported on concerns about the ownership of the region's newest private hospital. Dr Jonathan Boulton noted that the GMC has guidance about conflicts of interest.

### Letters pages

There are no letters to note today.

### Other News

An inquest into the deaths of three of [Code A] patients is covered by *The Metro*. The coroner has stated that Dr Martin is not on trial in any way. The inquest continues.

The *Daily Express* reports on a £5.6 million settlement awarded to Alice Joyce from South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust.

*The Daily Telegraph* reports on the £4.9 million settlement awarded to John Calf, 35 years after hospital negligence left him unable to speak or feed himself.

*The Daily Telegraph* reports on figures from a Primary Care Foundation report that has found GPs only visit one in every 50 of their out of hours call-outs.

### Headlines:

GMC

Pharmaceutical Journal  
Delivery date : 30/01/2010  
Number of words : 2393

Measuring the quality of pharmacy services: we need to get it right!

Improving the quality of care has always been a priority for the NHS but it has recently become a key driver with the acronym QIPP (quality, innovation, productivity, prevention) becoming the slogan for the next stage of NHS modernisation, which will need to be accomplished within severe financial constraints. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Belfast Telegraph Evening

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 364

Fresh inquest into mum who killed child and herself

A second inquest into the deaths of a mother who smothered her daughter and then killed herself is to begin in April. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

The Herald

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 115

Baby P doctor probe

THE doctor who failed to spot Baby P's broken back and ribs days before his death is facing fresh allegations of misconduct.

GMC

Daily Mirror

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 160

New probe over Baby P consultant

The doctor who failed to spot Baby P's broken back and ribs days before his death was facing fresh allegations of misconduct yesterday. Consultant paediatrician [Code A] applied for a job in Ireland after the tragedy but failed to inform her prospective employer she was facing action from the General Medical Council, it is alleged. She will appear before the GMC's fitness to practise panel over her treatment of Peter Connelly in 2007.

Miscellaneous

Daily Express

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 225

Brain-damage girl, 13, wins £5.6m payout

A High Court judge described being "humbled" yesterday by the devoted care given by the family of a girl brain-damaged at birth as she gave her backing to a £5.6m compensation package. Neil Block QC, for South Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust, which admitted liability and publicly apologised to the family, said it was a "matter of profound regret" that Alice "did not receive the standard of care that she and her family were entitled to".

GMC

The Scotsman

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 145

Baby Peter doctor facing fresh misconduct allegations

THE doctor at the centre of the case involving the death of Baby P faced fresh allegations of misconduct yesterday.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 111

Baby P case doctor 'applied for job'

The doctor at the centre of the Baby P scandal allegedly applied for a job in Ireland without telling her potential employer she had been suspended.

GMC

Gloucestershire Echo  
 Delivery date : 30/01/2010  
 Number of words : 155

Grieving parents support doctor who linked MMR jab to autism

Grieving Cheltenham parents have hit out at the "disgraceful" treatment of [Code A] the man at the centre of a MMR jab controversy. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Lincolnshire Echo  
 Delivery date : 30/01/2010  
 Number of words : 155

THE descent into professional disgrace [...]

Comment: "The descent into professional disgrace of [Code A] is now almost complete." Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

The Independent  
 Delivery date : 02/02/2010  
 Number of words : 523

Health reforms? Americans should start with their diet

Comment on american diets and the General Medical Council disciplinary process.

GMC

The Times  
 Delivery date : 02/02/2010  
 Number of words : 87

Baby P doctor claims

The doctor who failed to spot Baby P's broken back and ribs days before his death is facing fresh allegations of misconduct. The consultant paediatrician [Code A] applied for a job in Ireland after the tragedy but failed to inform her prospective employer that she was facing action from the General Medical Council (GMC), it was alleged.

GMC

Liverpool Echo  
 Delivery date : 30/01/2010  
 Number of words : 60

ANGER OVER DOCTOR'S PUNISHMENT

Families reacted with disgust after a doctor who put their elderly relatives at risk of death by prescribing "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs escaped being struck off by the General Medical Council.

GMC

Liverpool Echo  
 Delivery date : 30/01/2010  
 Number of words : 80

MMR DOCTOR 'ABUSED TRUST'

The doctor at the centre of the MMR row "showed a callous disregard" for the suffering of children, the General Medical Council has ruled.

## GMC

Manchester Evening News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 496

I was let down by the system, says surgeon in botched op probe

A surgeon whose operation on a church organist's finger left him unable to play again admitted she didn't feel confident enough to perform the procedure. Notes the General Medical Council.

## GMC

Manchester Evening News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 496

I was let down by the system, says surgeon in botched op probe

A surgeon whose operation on a church organist's finger left him unable to play again admitted she didn't feel confident enough to perform the procedure. Notes the General Medical Council.

## Doctors

Metro

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 183

Doctor in 3 deaths case 'not on trial'

A doctor linked to the deaths of three patients is 'not on trial in any shape, way or form', a coroner said yesterday.

was cleared of murdering the trio with overdoses of morphine in a crown court trial. Re-opening the inquests into the deaths of the three men, coroner Andrew Tweddle said while 75-yearold Martin's name would come up 'many, many times' he was not on trial

## GMC

Southern Daily Echo

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 1384

SAINT OR SINNER?

Comment on  noting the General Medical Council.

## GMC

Southern Daily Echo

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 454

Anger as drug error GP free to practise

Families reacted with disgust yesterday after a doctor who put their elderly relatives at risk of death by prescribing "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs escaped being struck off. Notes the General Medical Council.

## Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 70

£4.9m health win

A mother has won justice for her son more than 35 years after he was left disabled at birth by a hospital blunder.

## GMC

The Argus

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 168

Families' fury as doctor escapes being struck off

Families have reacted with disgust after a doctor who put the lives of their elderly relatives at risk by prescribing "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs escaped being struck off by the General Medical Council.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 234

Mother's anger at GMC

The mother of a teenager with autism has slammed the General Medical Council for finding the MMR vaccine scare doctor guilty of misconduct.

Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 338

GPs only visiting one in 50 patients out of hours, study finds

Family doctors visit just one in 50 patients who become ill out of hours in some parts of the country, a study by a leading health organisation has found. The study, which compares the quality of health services provided by all of England's Primary Care Trusts, has disclosed "gaping holes" in the out of hours provision. The number of patients receiving home visits varied from 25 per cent in one trust to two per cent in another, the report said. Meanwhile, the number of patients given only a telephone diagnosis also varied between 20 and 70 per cent. The study also showed that many trusts were failing to respond quickly enough to urgent calls.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 1278

'We won't stop until we get justice'

Relatives today vowed to continue their quest for justice after the doctor they blame for patient deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital was allowed to continue practising. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

The Sentinel

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 71

'Hazard' doctor keeps job

Families have reacted with disgust after a doctor who put their elderly relatives at risk of death by prescribing "potentially hazardous" levels of drugs escaped being struck off by the General Medical Council.

GMC

The Star

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 207

Kids' MMR jab gets mum's support

The mother of a little boy with autism has spoken out to encourage other parents to get their children protected by the MMR vaccine. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Yorkshire Post

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 334

Treatment and trust

Comment: "The story of Puvaneswary Markandoo is one of surgical incompetence and great expense." Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Yorkshire Post

Delivery date : 01/02/2010

Number of words : 624

£1m cost of payouts for cancer surgery botches

The compensation bill for breast cancer patients who suffered botched operations by the same surgeon has reached almost £1 million and may rise further. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Pharmaceutical Journal

Delivery date : 30/01/2010

Number of words : 49

GP revalidation trial

Revalidation is due to be trialled by doctors in a series of pilots across England. Notes the General Medical Council.

GMC

Cambridge News

Delivery date : 29/01/2010

Number of words : 332

MMR row doctor 'abused position'

The doctor who sparked the MMR controversy "showed a callous disregard" for the suffering of children, it has been claimed.

GMC

Flintshire Evening Leader

Delivery date : 29/01/2010

Number of words : 222

MMR row showed a callous disregard" for the suffering of children

The doctor at the centre of the MMR row "showed a callous disregard" for the suffering of children, it has been claimed.

GMC

Northampton Chronicle & Echo

Delivery date : 29/01/2010

Number of words : 64

MMR doc disciplined

Overview of the Code A hearing.

GMC

Wrexham Evening Leader

Delivery date : 29/01/2010

Number of words : 221

MMR row doctor 'ignored suffering of children

The doctor at the centre of the MMR row "showed a callous disregard" for the suffering of children, it has been claimed.

GMC

Belfast Telegraph Morning

Delivery date : 02/02/2010

Number of words : 173

Baby P doctor facing GMC panel

THE doctor who failed to spot Baby P's broken back and ribs days before his death is facing fresh allegations of misconduct.

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## 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