

Code A

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To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 21 Mar 09
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Press Cuttings Summary

Saturday 21 March 2009

Direct Mentions

Print Mentions

BMA News (21 Mar 09)

- An article, placed by the GMC's media team, about the BMA praising the GMC's decision to give consultants a second chance to join the specialist register quotes Neil Roberts, GMC Director of Registration & Resources as saying: "Entry on to the specialist register will allow these doctors to participate in recertification".
- A feature article looking at the experiences of two Polish doctors who have come to work in the NHS quotes GMC registration figures on how many Polish doctors have joined the register since before and after Poland joined the EU in 2004.
- A letter in response to an earlier article about the doctor's responsibility in uncertain and complex situations, mentions the GMC's *Consent* guidance, in relation to a patient refusing treatment. The author notes that, only when doctor's face such decisions pro-actively can such matters be acted on in the patient's best interests.

BMJ (21 Mar 09)

- There is a brief news item about the GMC opening up the Specialist Register for those consultants not already entered on to it.
- There is an article about Lord Laming's report into child protection and how the wariness of health and social care staff to engage with this must be addressed. The article mentions the high profile GMC fitness to practise cases of Professor Roy Meadow and Code A as contributing to paediatrician's being unwilling to undertake child protection work. It also mentions that Baby P's doctors Code A and Jerome Ikwueke are registered with sanctions pending investigations.
- An article and an editorial about the nominations for the new Chair of the GMC focus on one not being a doctor and how this news could be viewed positively and negatively. They ask for readers opinions on the matter.
- There is also an article announcing the chairs of three new boards (undergraduate, post-graduate and continued practice).
- A newshound piece notes that Remedy UK are only £1,500 away from raising the required amount for a legal challenge against the GMC.
- There is also a mention of the GMC's guidance around medical students' fitness to practise, placed by the media team.

The Lancet (21 Mar 09)

- The editorial comments on the two pieces of guidance recently issued by the GMC in relation to medical students fitness to practise and the revision of *Tomorrow's Doctors*, currently out for consultation. Although the comment agrees with the importance of such guidance, it notes that the quantity of so many requirements means that the "...relative merit of each point is lost, as is the broader goal of education". The comment

concludes that the GMC should promote "...enthusiasm and ideals, foster compassion and kindle a spirit of scientific enquiry".

- Although it does not mention the GMC, a lengthy article on professional ethics asks why these codes can sometimes fail. In summation, the article concludes that there are many different codes of ethics, at varying levels and they all differ.

The *Daily Mail* covers the fitness to practise hearing of Dr Silvia Baciu, who made racist comments towards Asian colleagues (suspended for six months).

The *Daily Telegraph* also mentions the fitness to practise review hearing of Dr Peter Windross (possession of ecstasy; the doctor has been allowed to practise again).

The News mentions the inquest into deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and that Dr Jane Barton, the only doctor named during initial investigations some years ago, is currently subject to GMC restrictions on her registration.

The Guardian interviews the parents of young people about how the medical system is not protecting children. The mother of a boy who died at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1986 notes that "...there needs to be a competent authority and not doctors overseeing themselves. The GMC remit is too narrow".

Other News

There are further mentions and comments on former Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt's call for a change in the law on assisted suicide in the national press.

Broadcaster John Humphrey's talks about how the death of his father convinced him that assisted suicide can sometimes be the correct death for certain people (*Daily Mail*).

Broadcast Mentions

UTV in Northern Ireland mentioned, yesterday evening, about the new abortion guidance being issued to health professionals across the province for the first time.

Letters Pages

A letter in *The Independent* about the recent report into failings at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust asks where bodies such as the BMA and GMC were during this case of "massive regulatory failure".

Headlines:

Adhoc report Extracted from MorethanNews.com

Folder : Today's cuttings

Delivery date : 21/03/2009 to : 21/03/2009

Sector : All

Keywords :

Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 434

Law is sure to change, but not yet

Editorial comment on Patricia Hewitt's proposals to provide legal protection for those who take their loved

ones abroad to die.

GMC

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 487

Suspended: Doctor who called Asian colleagues orang-utans

A doctor who described her Asian colleagues as 'orang-utans' has been suspended by the General Medical Council. Dr Silvia Baciu made the comments after claiming she had been subjected to insulting and threatening treatment because she was a white European. But the NHS Trust she worked for accused her of racism and the GMC yesterday criticised her 'unacceptable racial behaviour'.

GMC

The Guardian

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 476

'Young people are not getting the information they need in schools'

"Young people are not getting the information they need in schools", say researchers and campaigners for the Youth Parliament'.

GMC

The Independent

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 75

Stafford hospital

Readers' letter talking about the failure of Stafford hospital.

GMC

BMA News

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 233

BMA praises specialist register move

The BMA has welcomed the GMC's move to give consultants a second chance to join the specialist register from this week.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 3704

IT WAS RIGHT TO LET DAD DIE

John Humphreys discusses assisted suicide.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 503

Health service needs to develop expertise in child protection

The health secretary, Alan Johnson, "must immediately address the wariness of staff throughout the health services to engage with child protection work," a review of the current state of the system for protecting vulnerable children in England has concluded. Recently, a paediatrician who saw Baby P shortly before he died was suspended by the GMC for failing to notice the signs of abuse.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 82

GMC opens new specialist register route

The GMC is offering a new route onto the specialist register. Consultants who were appointed before January 1 1997, and who are not on the register, can now join.

Doctors

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 599

Drip by drip, we're losing respect for life

The Mail believes assisted suicide is "an icy downhill path, which we tread at our utmost peril".

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 239

Unprofessional regulation

Comment: "Last week the General Medical Council announced the three nominations for its new head. Nothing too unusual in that except, for the first time, one of the candidates has no medical background at all."

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 66

GMC announces new chairs

The General Medical Council has announced new chairs. Jim McKillop, Muirhead professor of medicine at the University of Glasgow, will chair the undergraduate board; John Jenkins CBE, senior lecturer in child health at Queen's University Belfast, will chair the postgraduate board; and Malcolm Lewis, sub-dean and director of general practice at Cardiff University, will be chair of the continued practice board.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 281

Lay head for medical regulator?

The General Medical Council could be headed by a non-doctor for the first time in its history, after a lay member of its governing council was named as one of three nominees for the post of chair.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 177

Remedy raises £ 18 500 for GMC challenge

Remedy UK, which hopes to challenge a decision by the GMC after it refused to investigate concerns at the way Modernising Medical Careers was rolled out, is close to its £20 000 target to fund a legal case.

GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 160

Look after your health, GMC advises medical students

Medical students should be aware that their own health can have an impact on the patients they are treating, according to the latest GMC guidance.

GMC

The Lancet

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 324

Medical education and professionalism

Editorial feature looking at the GMC's focus on professionalism in medical education.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 19/03/2009

Number of words : 134

THE DOCTOR

Dr Jane Barton was the only doctor investigated in relation to the deaths of elderly patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. At least one relative called for doctors' regulatory body the General Medical Council to investigate her conduct in 2002.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 51

Doctor can work after drugs penalty

A doctor who strapped ecstasy pills to his scrotum to avoid detection at an open air music festival has been allowed to resume practice.

Doctors

The Sun

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 98

myView

Columnist comments on Patricia Hewitt's call for the law on assisted suicide to be clarified.

Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 380

Parents lose court fight to keep sick baby alive

The parents of a seriously ill baby failed last night to overturn a ruling giving doctors the power to end his treatment and allow him to die.

Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 21/03/2009

Number of words : 1516

'If my husband were so ill that he wanted to die, of course I'd help'

The former Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt wants to the legal right for people to assist their own deaths.



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

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