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## **Panel urged to strike off Jane Barton in deaths probe**

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### **A doctor accused over elderly patient deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital should be banned from practising, a panel heard.**

Tom Kark, counsel for the General Medical Council, said erasing GP Jane Barton's name from the medical register was the only option to 'protect patients and public confidence in the profession.'

Dr Barton is accused of serious professional misconduct relating to 12 elderly patients who died at the Bury Road site between 1996 and 1999 - a charge she denies.

All of the patients died on Dryad or Daedalus wards between 1996 and 1999, when the GP was clinical assistant.

Dr Barton was found guilty of prescribing potentially hazardous and inappropriate drug doses at the end of a hearing in August. It also found the GP's prescriptions could have led to patients being over-medicated.

The panel has now reconvened to decide whether her actions amounted to serious professional misconduct and to decide what action, if any, she should face.

Mr Kark told a five-strong General Medical Panel at Regents Place, Euston Road, London: 'The failings demonstrated in this case were so serious that despite the passage of time the only sanction that will protect the public and public confidence in the profession is one of erasure.'

However Timothy Langdale QC, described Dr Barton as an 'experienced, caring and conscientious GP,' before handing the panel a bundle of 184 testimonials in support of her case.

He said: 'It can surely be said that a clear demonstration of her commitment and dedication to her work has been given by her continuing to provide excellent care to her patients, despite

having had allegations of various kinds hanging over her head, as well as the strain of practising for some 10 years.'

Dr Barton's conduct is being examined in relation to the deaths of Geoffrey Packman, 67 - known as Mick, Elsie Lavender, 83, Eva Page, 87, Alice Wilkie, 81, Robert Wilson, 74, Elsie Devine, 88, Jean Stevens, 73, Enid Spurgeon, 92, Gladys Richards, 91, Ruby Lake, 84, Code A Code A 82, and Arthur Cunningham, 79 - known as Brian.