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Code A

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## Press Cuttings Summary

Friday 24 September 2010

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### Direct Mentions

#### Print & Online Mentions

GP (24 Sept 2010)

- The magazine reports that the GMC has advised doctors to alert patients about the presence of the swine flu vaccine in this year's seasonal flu injection if it may concern patients. GMC Assistant Director, Standards, Jane O'Brien, says: "If you know a patient has previously refused the single swine flu vaccine, it's likely they would want to know this year's seasonal vaccine includes the swine flu strain".
- Stephanie Bown and Sarah Whitehouse of the Medical Protection Society write about GMC fitness to practise hearings: what doctors can expect of the process and how a hearing is conducted. This follows a previous article about fitness to practise investigations.
- A case study on what to do if a patient complains about a switch from branded to generic medicine cites *GMP*.

#### Fitness to Practise

- The ongoing hearing of Dr James Johnson is reported in *Health Service Journal* and the *Manchester Evening News*

#### Revalidation

An anonymous GP writes to *Pulse's* letters page following last week's article, 'GMC claims "huge support" for revalidation', claiming he knows of "no popular support for GP revalidation in my area".

An article in *GP* that advises doctors on how to keep a record of their CPD credits to prepare for revalidation notes "Regular revalidation may be necessary to continue to hold a GMC licence".

#### Other News

The CHRE appears on a leaked list of quangos to be scrapped, according to the *Daily Telegraph*.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/8021739/Quango-cuts-177-bodies-to-be-scrapped-under-coalition-plans.html>

*Pulse* (22 Sep 10)

- There is an article about the increasing number of advertisements in *Pulse* for GP positions outside of the UK (article is attached)
- The magazine reports on the decision of the Practitioner Health Programme not to accept new patients after the DH declined to continue funding it.

A woman whose mother was given the wrong cause of death by recently suspended pathologist Dr Freddy Patel tells the *Evening Standard* of the distress his error caused.

The Irish News claims that the NI Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is considering the reintroduction of prescription charges, £20 charges to see a GP and £100 to visit A&E and other charges if the Northern Ireland health budget is not ringfenced. The story refers to evidence in the Republic of Ireland that shows that similar charges deter people from seeking healthcare.

Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Newsletter and BBC Online report on calls for the Northern Ireland Health Minister, Code A to resign after he admitted he made a mistake in the Assembly claiming that a doctor had not been employed by a local Health Trust, when in fact they were. The doctor in question had given evidence to a court which resulted in two paedophile brothers, who were mentally unfit to stand trial, being returned to the home and community where their crimes had been committed.

A coroner has heard that a pregnant woman and her unborn child would be alive if they had not been failed by doctors, the Daily Telegraph reports. 27-year-old Charlotte Clarke died three days after an emergency caesarean at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in November 2009. Coroner Dr Shirley Radcliffe said a delay in operating contributed to the deaths.

A woman is dying of cancer after doctors missed her tumour on more than 20 visits to hospital. Catherine Watkins, 55, of Southend was finally told she had pancreatic cancer which was terminal due to late diagnosis.

#### Headlines:

GMC 5 article(s)

#### PATIENTS'NOTES Guide to good medical records

Dr Tony Grewal provides advice on how to ensure you include all the essential data about the patient.

**GP Magazine** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

#### Swine flu warning to be given for seasonal jab

GPs should alert patients who refused last year's swine flu vaccine that it is included in this year's seasonal flu jab, the GMC has advised.

**GP Magazine** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

#### PRACTICE DILEMMA Generic substitution

Medical advice column, noting the General Medical Council.

**GP Magazine** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

#### REVALIDATION Gaining CPD credits

The introduction of revalidation confirms that attaining a medical degree or royal college membership is not an end point.

**GP Magazine** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

#### GMC ridiculous to claim support for revalidation

Letter: "I know of no popular support for GP revalidation in my area ('GMC claims "huge support" from GPs for its revalidation plans')."

**Pulse** - United Kingdom - 22/09/2010

GMC - Fitness to Practice 8 article(s)

#### G20 pathologist's mistake 'caused three years of hell'

A woman told today of her family's "three years of hell" after a mistake by the pathologist who performed the disputed post-mortem on G20 newspaper vendor Code A. She spoke out after Code A was suspended from the medical register for three months. His punishment this month followed a General Medical Council disciplinary panel which ruled that Code A 63, was guilty of misconduct in two earlier post-mortem examinations.

**Evening Standard London** - United Kingdom - 23/09/2010

#### 'The fun starts here...'

The NHS has apologised to the daughter of a patient who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital for being 'insensitive' about her case.

**The News Hampshire** - United Kingdom - 23/09/2010

#### CONDUCT BMA chair up before GMC

Former British Medical Association chair James Johnson is to face a General Medical Council disciplinary panel accused of professional misconduct.

**Health Service Journal** - United Kingdom - 23/09/2010

A line can be drawn under one contentious issue

Hopefully the last two weeks has seen the end of one of the most damaging revelations to the world of rugby in recent history with the final sorry events of the 'Bloodgate' scandal.

**Northants Evening Telegraph Northants** - United Kingdom - 21/09/2010

Sympathy for physio Brennan

Hopefully the last two weeks has seen the end of one of the most damaging revelations to the world of rugby in recent history with the final sorry events of the 'Bloodgate' scandal.

**Northampton Chronicle & Echo Northants** - United Kingdom - 21/09/2010

MEDICO-LEGAL Being under the GMC's scrutiny

Facing a GMC investigation can be very daunting and we have all seen the mileage the press can get out of 'doctors under fire'.

**GP Magazine** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

Surgeon 'stabbed junior doctor in head with needle'

A surgeon made a string of sarcastic remarks to a junior doctor before he accidentally stabbed her in the forehead with a needle, a disciplinary panel has heard.

**Manchester Evening News Lancashire** - United Kingdom - 23/09/2010

Richards set for tough dinner questioning

Columnist discusses the GMC hearing into the actions of Code A during a Harlequins match last year.

**Scarborough Evening News Yorkshire** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

Doctors 3 article(s)

Sick doctors scheme to take last patients as funding ends

An organisation set up to help prevent sick GPs being lost to the NHS is preparing to stop taking new patients from December after failing to secure new funding.

**Pulse** - United Kingdom - 22/09/2010

Delays helped kill mother and baby

A pregnant woman and her unborn child would still be alive if they had not been failed by doctors, an inquest heard. Charlotte Clarke died three days after undergoing an emergency caesarean at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, in November 2009.

**The Daily Telegraph** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

Mother told she is dying after doctors missed cancer 20 times

A mother is dying of cancer after doctors missed her tumour on more than 20 visits to hospital. Catherine Watkins, was convinced she was seriously ill but staff repeatedly refused to carry out scans to check.

**The Daily Telegraph** - United Kingdom - 24/09/2010

**Web links:**

**National Newspapers:**

[The Times](#)  
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**Medical Press:**

[Pulse](#)  
[BMJ](#)  
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