

Code A

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**From:** Code A  
**Sent:** 30 June 2009 09:34  
**To:** Press Cuttings  
**Subject:** Press Cuttings - 30 Jun 09

## Press Cuttings Summary

Tuesday 30 June 2009

### Direct Mentions

#### Print & Online Mentions

The *Eastern Daily Press* mentions the GMC's draft guidance on End of Life Care issues (currently out for consultation) and how this deals with premature babies, in a piece which was placed by the Press Office. The story reveals that 55 per cent of those questioned in a GMC/mumsnet.com survey said parents should have the final say when it comes to withdrawing treatment for critically ill babies.

There are national and regional mentions of the following fitness to practise hearings:

- Dr George Murty - allegations of poor treatment and communication during surgery (hearing ongoing)
- Dr Peter Rowlands – Interim Orders Panel meeting (warning issued)
- Dr Jane Barton - alleged irresponsible prescribing to patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (hearing ongoing)
- Dr Jonathan Chahal - allegations of procuring and abusing drugs (hearing is ongoing).

A letter in *The News* (Portsmouth) asks for Sir Peter Viggers to apologise to the families of people who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, in connection with the ongoing hearing for Dr Jane Barton.

A mother whose daughter died after taking the contraceptive pill Dianette is calling for an inquiry by the GMC:  
[http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1123271\\_plea\\_over\\_danger\\_pill](http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1123271_plea_over_danger_pill)

A surgery in Huddersfield is set to close after GP Dr Dev Dutt was struck-off by the GMC:  
<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/local-west-yorkshire-news/2009/06/29/fartown-surgery-of-struck-off-gp-dr-dev-dutt-to-close-86081-24007683/>

### Broadcast Mentions

ITV's 'Granada Tonight' show yesterday mentioned that the mother of a woman who died of deep vein thrombosis after taking a contraceptive pill may take this case to the GMC. She says her daughter was not briefed about the possible side effects of the drug.

BBC Radio Ulster's 'Talkback' show yesterday afternoon featured a phone-in on the issue of doctors discussing their religious beliefs with patients and the GMC was briefly mentioned.

### Times Letters page

There are no letters today.

### Other News

The results of the GP Patient Survey are to be published today. The survey will penalise financially any GP surgery where patients have faced a delay in their appointments. The BMA has criticised the survey as not being representative or accurate and for punishing surgeries that actually need more funding to improve services.

There are several stories in the national press about the youngest person to die from 'swine' flu. The girl was nine years old, died at Birmingham Children's Hospital and already had other significant health problems (*Guardian*).

Religious leaders including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, have spoken out against plans to debate the assisted suicide laws as a potential threat to "vulnerable people at serious risk" (*Daily Mail*). *The Daily Telegraph* reports that several peers have also added their voices to this criticism.

There is a brief mention in *The Daily Telegraph* that an 11 month old boy discharged from hospital with meningitis has died of the condition. Trafford General Hospital has launched an investigation.

There is a letter in *The Scotsman* in which the author expresses their anger at "bible-thumping" doctors wanting to discuss their spirituality with patients, in relation to an earlier article in the newspaper.

The *Scotsman* of 29 June reported that Labour MSP Lord George Foulkes has backed the SNP's call for powers identified in the Calman Commission report as being suitable for devolution to Holyrood to be transferred as soon as possible. However, the piece states that Lord Foulkes has also called for powers identified for transfer back to Westminster, 'including registration of medical professionals', to be transferred quickly too:

<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Foulkes-calls-for-swift-action.5408941.jp>

A letter in the *Scotsman* of 29 June from sociologist David Miller continues a debate on the ethics of a research conference for GPs organised by Dundee University and funded by Pfizer:

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Need-for-clarity.5408891.jp>

## Headlines:

### Doctors

The Times

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 989

[GPs fear they will lose millions if patients complain about surgery waiting times](#)

Family doctors will lose millions of pounds in funding because of complaints from patients over the waiting times for appointments. Most general practices around the country are expected to suffer losses - some as much as £25,000 - when the results of a survey are released today. The GP Patient Survey, the first to penalise financially doctors who receive negative responses, is expected to cost practitioners more than £10 million and in the worst cases could force cutbacks such as staff redundancies. Practices that receive less than 60 per cent of positive responses to the two key questions would sacrifice all the money available as part of the quality and outcomes framework, which pays doctors for achieving service targets. The BMA predicted an average-sized practice could face losses of £7,500, while larger lists could lose more than £10,000. Hundreds of practices are expected to appeal.

### Miscellaneous

The Guardian

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 626

[Girl, 9, dies after catching swine flu as confirmed cases in UK pass 6,000](#)

A nine-year-old girl has become the third person to die in the UK after catching swine flu, as the total of confirmed cases in the country passed 6,000. The HPA announced an increase of 1,604 in the number of patients in England confirmed with swine flu to 4,968 since the last figures, released on Friday. Andy Burnham, the health secretary, said: "Tragic as today's death is, I would like to emphasise that, across England, the majority of swine flu cases have not been severe." In other news, a handful of ball boys and girls at Wimbledon, where attendance has reached 40,000 a day, have been advised to stay at home after suffering flu-like symptoms.

### GMC

BMJ (British Medical Journal)

Delivery date : 27/06/2009

Number of words : 243

[Doctor in Baby P case claims unfair dismissal](#)

The paediatrician who was sacked after failing to spot that Baby P had a broken back and eight fractured ribs two

days before he died has launched a claim of unfair dismissal against her former employers, Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust.

#### End of Life

Daily Mail

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 135

#### Religious chiefs fight assisted death laws

The country's most senior religious leaders yesterday declared their opposition to laws that would allow families to travel abroad and help terminally ill relatives die. The Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams, Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks and the Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols condemned an attempt to change the law by amending the Coroners and Justice Bill.

#### GMC

Eastern Daily Press

Delivery date : 29/06/2009

Number of words : 147

#### Parents' view on baby decisions

Only one in four parents thinks doctors should decide when to stop treating a critically ill baby and eight out of 10 do not want the courts to get involved, a survey for the General Medical Council out today found.

#### GMC

Leicester Mercury

Delivery date : 26/06/2009

Number of words : 316

#### Surgeon 'failed' patient after op'

A hospital surgeon accused of accidentally making a hole in a man's skull failed to investigate why the patient was severely disabled after the operation, a GMC hearing has heard.

#### End of Life

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 108

#### Assisting suicide would threaten the vulnerable, say legal experts

Five peers, including Lord Mackay of Clashfern, a former Lord Chancellor have added their voices to the growing disquiet over proposals that could lead to the legalisation of euthanasia.

#### GMC

Liverpool Echo

Delivery date : 26/06/2009

Number of words : 274

#### Warning to doc who flushed a toilet on his lover's head

A top Merseyside doctor who flushed a toilet on his girlfriend's head has received a formal warning from a medical regulator. Mention is made of the General Medical Council.

#### GMC

South Wales Argus

Delivery date : 29/06/2009

Number of words : 1

#### 26/06: Doctor's bid to overturn suspension

A doctor sacked by Gwent health chiefs is taking the GMC to the High Court to overturn his 18-month suspension, claiming that the General Medical Council acted "unreasonably".

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 25/06/2009

Number of words : 84

Don't duck apology, Sir Peter

Readers letter concerning a GMC investigation.

GMC

The News

Delivery date : 26/06/2009

Number of words : 537

I quit over prescription of drugs, says nurse

A senior nurse quit her job at a hospital because she disagreed with the large doses of potentially lethal painkillers prescribed to elderly patients.

GMC

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 126

Doctor took 'floaty' gas

A doctor inhaled gas and air while on duty on a children's ward to "feel floaty", a General Medical Council Fitness to Practise Panel heard yesterday.

GMC

The Guardian

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 100

Doctor who inhaled gas denies taking drugs

A doctor inhaled gas and air while on duty on a children's A&amp; E ward and told nurses it was "fun", a medical disciplinary panel was told yesterday. The General Medical Council panel was told evidence would be presented showing Entonox should only be used in medical situations. Daniel Chahal, 33, denied inhaling the substance on a date unknown in July 2007 and inviting a nurse to join him. He also denies taking cocaine between January and March 2008.

Miscellaneous

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 52

Meningitis boy who was sent home dies

An 11-month-old boy has died of meningitis four days after he was sent home from hospital with paracetamol.

Doctors

The Scotsman

Delivery date : 30/06/2009

Number of words : 66

Wrong treatment

It is infuriating that Bible-thumping doctors want the right to impose their religious dogma on patients under the guise of "discussing spirituality" (your report, 29 June).

**Web links:****Other Regular Newspapers:****Medical Press:**

**National Newspapers:**The TimesThe IndependentThe GuardianThe Daily TelegraphThe Daily MailThe Daily MirrorThe Daily ExpressThe SunThe Financial Times**Online Media:**The BBCChannel 4SkyThe ScotsmanThe HeraldThe Press & JournalThe Manchester Evening NewsIrish NewsBelfast TelegraphNews LetterSouth Wales EchoSouth Wales Evening PostWestern MailPulseBMJHSJThe Lancet**The Press Cuttings Website**