

Code A

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From: Code A
Sent: 09 November 2009 09:59
To: Press Cuttings
Subject: Press Cuttings - 5 Nov 09

Press Cuttings Summary

Monday 9 November 2009

Direct Mentions

Print & Online Mentions

A supplement in Saturday's *Times* (see attached) highlights winners of the competition, 'Top 50 Call Centres for Customer Service 2009'. The GMC's Contact Centre in Manchester entered and was awarded the 2nd Top Performer in the Public Sector category. A feature on the GMC includes a quote provided by Richard Amison, GMC Contact Centre Manager, which says that participation in the competition has had an 'extremely positive impact on our contact centre. It has motivated colleagues who have all demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving our performance.' The GMC's Contact Centre is the main point of contact for doctors and members of the public. In 2008 our 43 staff dealt with 240,000 telephone calls and 80,000 e-mails and letters, with a customer satisfaction rating of well above 80%. The award recognises our work providing the public and doctors with the highest quality of service.



The Times Top
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A very short news article in today's *Times* mentions that Take Care Now, the company that hired locum **Code A** who administered a fatal overdose to a patient, has had its NHS contract terminated. The article says that **Code A** was 'barred from practising in Britain by the GMC'. The news is also covered in *The Guardian*, with no mention of the GMC.

According to an article in *The Daily Mail*, Suffolk County Council bought a five-bedroom detached property in August 2009 without realising registered sex offender Christopher Allison, a former psychotherapist, lived just yards away. The Council has been forced to halt plans for the new £435,000 children's home. The article says that 'the GMC failed to act' and Allison simply moved his practice to Basingstoke, Hants, where he continued to abuse women'. The press office is going to check the accuracy of the GMC mention in the article.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1225702/Blundering-council-spends-500-000-childrens-home-door-rapist-Christopher-Allison.html>

In a piece placed by the press office, the *Hospital Dr* website reports on the closing total of doctors who have responded to the GMC about whether they need a licence to practice. Over 213,000 doctors have responded with 200,000 choosing to hold a licence: <http://www.hospitaldr.co.uk/blogs/our-news/first-step-taken-on-road-to-revalidation>

Medilexicon (online) reports on the latest issue of *Ward Round*, a journal for foundation year doctors, published by the MDU. It mentions an article about doctors who have been the subject of an amorous advance from a patient. Dr James Armstrong who wrote the article notes GMC guidance and says "This can be an extremely tricky area for doctors. An amorous offer from a patient may on occasions prove tempting, but most doctors understand there are few, if any, situations where it can be appropriate to combine a professional and a sexual relationship with a patient, and it could result in the doctor being asked to justify their actions before the GMC. Even when a doctor's professional relationship with a patient has long finished, intimacy may still be inappropriate depending on the nature of the previous professional relationship, when that relationship ended and whether the patient was or is particularly vulnerable."

<http://www.medilexicon.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=170181>

Community Care (online) reports on the General Social Care Council's conduct system and how the CHRE has made 20 recommendations following its review which would bring the GSCC in line with healthcare regulatory bodies such

as the General Medical Council. This includes 'clarifying its public protection role, scrapping the conduct system for social workers and replacing it with a "fitness to practise" regime, and making the GSCC more financially independent of government, perhaps, for example, making it more like the GMC, which is a registered charity.'

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/11/06/113094/plans-for-reform-of-gsccs-role-spark-debate-and-discord.html>

Bristol University News mentions that Nicholas Deakin a third year medical student has been elected co-Chair of the BMA medical students' committee.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2009/6646.html>

There is more coverage about the relatives of patients who died at Gosport War Memorial Hospital receiving the support of MP Norman Lamb. The article mentions Dr Jane Barton's fitness to practise hearing:

<http://www.ryeandbattleobserver.co.uk/eastbourne-news/Lib-Dem-gives-his-backing.5800340.jp>

The fitness to practise hearing of Dr Magdi Bassilious is mentioned online:

<http://www.magentanews.com/cache.asp?n=7273957>

Broadcast Mentions

There are no broadcast mentions today.

Letters pages

There are no relevant letters to note today.

Other News

The Royal College of GPs has produced an information leaflet for patients about how they can inform the revalidation process: <http://www.medilexicon.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=170176>

A new NHS report says that detailed figures must be collected on Scotland's ethnic minority patients. An article in the *Scottish Sun* says that detailed figures must be collected to give a better picture of the nation's health.

According to *The Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Express*, GPs are to receive a letter from the European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) asking them to stop the practice of prescribing antibiotics for colds – as it is contributing to the rise in the number of infections resistant to antibiotics.

Dr Sherif Abdel-Fattah received a speeding ticket during a rush to hospital to save a woman dying in hospital. *The Daily Telegraph* reports that only when Avon and Somerset police were contacted by a newspaper did the force finally drop the prosecution on Friday.

American doctors have highlighted the impact the European working time Directive is having on surgical training, noting (across different countries) that the resulting restrictions have seen an increase in basic procedures performed and a reduction in complicated procedures by fourth and fifth year doctors:

<http://www.onmedica.com/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=9385bd2e-487b-4539-a8ca-cd38a5bceac2>

Headlines:

Adhoc report Extracted from MorethanNews.com

Folder : Today's cuttings

Delivery date : 09/11/2009 to : 09/11/2009

Sector : All

Keywords :

Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 695

GPs told to stop giving antibiotics for minor ailments

Family doctors are to be told to stop prescribing antibiotics for coughs and colds because the drugs' overuse is contributing to the spread of hospital bugs and putting vital treatments under threat. All GPs are to receive a letter next week from the European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

NHS issues

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 632

FINGER ON THE PULSE

Hospital chefs should prepare and cook food on site to improve the physical and mental health of vulnerable patients. In some of the new hospitals built under the Private Finance Initiative, unbelievably, there are no kitchens at all.

GMC

The Times

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 48

Contract terminated

Take Care Now, the company that hired a German doctor who inadvertently gave a fatal overdose to a 70-year-old patient in Cambridgeshire, has had its local NHS contract terminated.

Doctors

Daily Telegraph

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 465

Doctor's dash to save woman's life 'no excuse for speeding'

A doctor was embroiled in a drawn-out dispute with police over a speeding ticket he received during a rush to hospital to save a woman who his colleagues feared was bleeding to death. Only when Avon and Somerset Police were contacted by a newspaper did the force finally drop the prosecution.

Doctors

The Guardian

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 468

Firm that hired GP who gave fatal overdose loses contract

Take Care Now, a private company that hired a foreign doctor who accidentally killed a patient on his first UK shift as a locum has had a contract with Cambridgeshire NHS terminated early due to new safety concerns, the Guardian can reveal.

Doctors

Daily Express

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 168

Scientists warn GPs they are giving out too many antibiotics

GPs will be told to stop prescribing antibiotics to patients with coughs and colds because a rise in drug-resistant hospital bugs is putting vital health services at risk. Scientists fear the growth in the number of drug-resistant infections like MRSA is being fuelled by the routine prescription of antibiotics, even when they will not benefit the patient.

NHS issues

The Sun

Delivery date : 09/11/2009

Number of words : 89

NHS race data call

HEALTH experts last night admitted better medical records must be kept on Scotland's ethnic minority patients.

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