

Summary of Expert Criticisms

DECEASED	DOD	CAUSE	Expert summary
PITTOCK	24.01.96	Bronchopneumonia	<p>W – Dr B fell short of standard of medical care. Reason for drug prescription not clear. Dose range far exceeded appropriate dose. Doses of excessive morphine may have contributed to death.</p> <p>B – Lack of documentation / confusion. Drug management sub optimal. Cannot prove beyond reasonable doubt that negligent.</p>
LAVENDER			<p>B – Excessive doses of diamorphine and midazolan suboptimal. Shortened life by a few hours / days.</p> <p>W – medical care suboptimal. Lack of medical note. Syringe driver as required is unusual. Failed to adequately assess cause of pain. Reasonable doubt that entered terminal phase.</p>
SERVICE	05.06.97	Congestive heart failure	W – infrequent entries in medical records. No justification for prescription of diamorphine. Wide dose range not justified. Likely to be excessive. Difficult to say dose led to death.
LAKE	21.08.98	Bronchopneumonia	W – large dose range far exceeded needs. No justification for use of

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			<p>syringe driver. No indication as to how much dose can be altered, how often and by whom. Reasonable doubt as to whether entered terminal phase.</p> <p>B – PM should have been held. Negligent standard of care. Cannot satisfy self beyond reasonable doubt that there was more than minimal contribution to death</p>
CUNNINGHAM	26.09.98	Bronchopneumonia	<p>W – difficult to follow progress over last 6 days of life due to infrequent entries in medical records. Issue – large dose range. Large doses not administered.</p> <p>B – excessive dose 25/26 which may have slightly shortened life.</p>
WILSON	18.10.98	Congestive heart failure. Renal failure. Liver failure	<p>B – Death may have been hastened by initiation of oromorph on 14.10.98.</p> <p>W – Suboptimal medical care. Syringe driver not usual. Dose excessive for needs. Difficult to say if more than minimally contributed to death.</p>
SPURGIN	13.04.98	CVA	<p>B – syringe driver appropriate. Number of areas of poor clinical practice. Starting dose high.</p> <p>W – lack of certainty over cause of</p>

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			death. Medical care is suboptimal (Reid and Barton). Unclear why regular morphine necessary. More appropriate to prescribe appropriate doses.
PACKMAN	03/09/99	Heart Attack	<p>B – significant failings in way drug chart used / written up. Medical prescribing or standards of nursing do not meet expectations of regulations on prescription in use of controlled drugs. Starting dose higher than what most clinicians would use. Though higher than conventional at start did not contribute significantly to death. Change death certificate.</p> <p>W – syringe driver not justified. Dose range exposed patient to excessive doses. No instructions on prescription chart. Barton and Reid fell short. Drugs more than minimally contributed to death[Experts disagree]</p>
DEVINE		Renal Failure / Chronic Glomerulonephritis	<p>B – lack of clear medical notes. No known cause of severe pain. Alter death certificate. Possible would have been dead on 21 November. Cannot say drugs shortened life in more than a minor way.</p> <p>W – Treatment excessive to needs. Reasonable doubt definitely entered terminal stage. Exposed to inappropriate and excessive doses</p>

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			that could have more than negligibly contributed to death.
GREGORY	22.11.98		<p>B – satisfied death due to natural causes</p> <p>W – no justification for prescription in syringe driver. Dose unlikely to have been excessive.</p>