

# Expert Review

**Gladys Richards**

**No. BJC/41**

**Date of Birth:** Code A

**Date of Death: 22 August 1998**

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On 30 July 1998 Mrs Richards suffered a fall at the Glenheathers Nursing Home where she lived. She fractured her right neck of femur and was admitted to the Royal Haslar Hospital where she underwent a closed relocation of her right hip.

She was transferred to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 11 August 1998 for continuing care. She was readmitted to the Royal Haslar Hospital on 14 August 1998 for a reduction of her dislocated right hip and was readmitted to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 17 August 1998. Plan on admission was to continue Haloperidol and only to give Oramorph in severe pain.

Mrs Richards, on the 18 August, was still noted to be in great pain at which point it was proposed that she was started on subcutaneous Diamorphine/Haloperidol/Midazolam.

Mrs Richards was noted to be much more peaceful on 21 August although her condition was noted to be very poor.

There is criticism made that the starting dose of 40mgs Diamorphine seemed excessive when starting the syringe driver but it was noted that Mrs Richards opiate requirement had increased considerably in the fifteen hours before the driver was started. Dr Lawson considered that the opiates were not considered to be implicated in her death. Dr Naysmith felt the Diamorphine dose was too high and probably shortened her life but she seemed "unlikely to survive unless she had been left in severe pain (screaming)".