

# Expert Review

**Elizabeth Rogers**

**No. BJC/44**

**Date of Birth:** Code A

**Date of Death: 4 February 1997**

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Mrs Rogers was transferred from the Royal Haslar Hospital to Gosport War Memorial Hospital on 30 January 1997.

She had been treated at the Royal Haslar Hospital with a chest infection and a urinary tract infection. She had severe Parkinson's disease. On transfer it was noted she had a catheter in place, was bed bound, slightly dysphagic and her sacrum was red but intact.

On 2 February 1997 she was prescribed oral Morphine due to an increase in pain.

On 3 February 1997 in view of the pain not being controlled by oral Morphine, a syringe driver was commenced with 40mgs of Diamorphine, 20mgs of Midazolam and 400mcgs Hyoscine.

The experts note that the dose of Diamorphine approximated to a doubling of opioid medication and question the reason for the Diamorphine increase on her final day. Dr Lawson felt the medical problems were enough to account for her death although Dr Naysmith (3B) has expressed concern that "it is likely that the opioid substantially shortened this lady's life and may have produced death in a lady who would otherwise have survived for months". Note Dr Ferner categorised this case as 1A to reflect the optimal treatment of a natural death.