

**INQUIRY INTO OFF-PROTOCOL PRESCRIBING OF  
CHEMOTHERAPY IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Ruth Irwin  
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I am Ruth Irwin.

In July 1997 I was diagnosed and treated for Hodgkinsons Lymphoma by Dr Phadke. At that time I was working as an RN in 4 West Ward at the Sutherland Hospital. Dr Phadke told me that it was necessary to treat it with a strong dose of the chemotherapy drugs otherwise it might reoccur later in life. The dosage was based on my weight. Even so a close check was kept of how my blood results came back. I was questioned about how I was coping. When I mentioned numbness in my finger tips one of the drugs was reduced and gradually feeling returned to my finger tips. At all times Dr Phadke was concerned for my well being. The treatment was concluded in December of 1997. I was considered to be in remssion. I am now a happy healthy 82 year old lady enjoying life on the golf course and bowling green. I have sent this account of my sickness and treatment by snail mail as my previous efforts on the computer told me MAILER FAILURE. My sympathy is with Dr Phadke and his wife. He gave a couple of lecutres about how they dealt with difficult case of Ca. He said that a group of doctors would get together and discuss the cases and together they would come up with a solution. Not all people are strong enough to have a very strong dose of these toxic chemotherapy drugs.