

*Hyponatraemia*



15 APR 2003  
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### National Patient Safety Agency

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Dr Miriam McCarthy  
Senior Medical Officer  
Dept. of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

11 April 2003

Dear Dr McCarthy,

#### Deaths From Hyponatraemia in Children

Thank you for your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2003 on the above and for bringing the issue to our attention.

We are aware that this condition is a recognised risk of receiving intravenous fluids. The matter is one which the National Patient Safety Agency would like to explore in detail further as there is the potential to influence practice to prevent this type of incident happening again.

We have referred your letter to Suzan Smallman, Assistant Director for Children's Services, in order that she may investigate the matter and make recommendations as to whether we should include this in our plan of work. We will contact you when this is complete to let you know the outcome.

Once again thank you for raising this concern.

Yours sincerely

Susan Williams/Sue Osborn  
Joint Chief Executive

*Copy to  
- CMO  
- Dr Carson*

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