

Medical and Allied Branch

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Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 5 July 2004

Dear Dr Jenkins

GUIDANCE ON THE PREVENTION OF HYPONATRAEMIA IN CHILDREN

The Chief Medical Officer is currently reviewing the guidance on the prevention of hyponatraemia in children, and wishes to revise it in light of any new evidence available since its issue in 2002.

I would like you to consider the current guidance, (A4 copy attached) and any additions or amendments that you think should be made. In doing so it would be particularly helpful if you could take account of the input of clinical staff who have used the guidance and findings of any relevant audit conducted within your Trust.

I also draw your attention to a number of recent publications on fluid therapy in children which you may wish to refer to including:

- Mann, NP. What routine intravenous maintenance fluid should be used? Arch Dis Child 2004; Vol 89: 411-418.
- Duke, T. Molyneux E. Intravenous fluids for seriously ill children: time to consider. The Lancet October 18; 2003; Vol 362: 1320-1323.
- Halberthal, M. Halperin M; Bohn D. Acute hyponatraemia in children admitted to hospital; retrospective analysis of factors contributing to its development and resolution. BMJ 2001; 322: 780-782.

I would appreciate if you could respond to me as soon as possible. I would also be happy to meet and discuss, if you would find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

DR MIRIAM McCARTHY
Senior Medical Officer

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