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Dear Miriam

Re Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia in Children

Thank you for your letter dated 05.07.04. As I discussed with you briefly in RVH the other day, I understand that Dr Campbell has already approached Sir Cyril Chantler and asked for his views on the current guidelines. I believe that a written response from Sir Cyril would be an important first step prior to us undertaking a local review.

As I also mentioned, I have doubts as to the value of trying to be more specific in terms of recommendations, given the clear disparity of views expressed in recent publications as detailed in your letter. However, a number of other issues have arisen, some as the result of a regional audit undertaken by Dr Jarlath McAloon, the results of which were recently presented to our own group in Antrim. I therefore feel it would be very important that Jarlath is involved in any further work being undertaken on this topic, and note that his name does not appear in the distribution list on your letter. I hope it will be possible for you to contact Jarlath and include him at this stage, as I believe that these results have important information which we do need to consider.

You may also have seen the copy of my recent letter to Dr Sumner on this subject which I sent to Dr Campbell, and the reference to a workshop being arranged. An important development at this stage would be for work to be done to identify those who have a role in caring for children but who may not have access to the recent literature on this topic, or indeed possibly even to the guidelines. I am thinking particularly of junior medical staff working in surgical and adult environments where children and young people are cared for.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

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