

Received pursuant to Rule 17

Intensive Care Unit

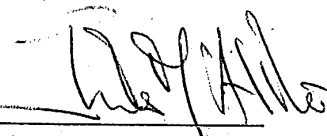
12/10/2003

Statement Re: Conor Mitchell (Deceased) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DoB 12/10/1987

On the 9th May 2003 I was the consultant-in-charge of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Following the monthly Morbidity and Mortality meeting which finished about 09.50, Dr. Liam McCaughey gave me a hand-over from the previous 24 hours. He informed me about the admission of Conor Mitchell at about 23.00 the previous night and further informed me that he was comatose following an apparent respiratory arrest on a medical ward. He had been unresponsive from the time of arrest.

I first saw Conor at approximately 10.00. Although he was 15 years old he had the appearances of an 8 or 9 year old. He was unresponsive but stable on the ventilator. I then reviewed the brain CT scan from the night before. Following this I returned to Conor and conducted a more detailed neurological assessment. The only neurological response that I could elicit was flexion to supra-orbital stimulation. No significant change in treatment was made. Following a further two hours of observation there was no change.

I spoke with Conor's family at approximately 12.00, to hear for myself his presenting complaint, history of presenting complaint and to get some idea of his previous health, medical problems and function. Following this I made the decision to attempt to transfer Conor to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (despite his chronological age) in view of his small size, complex history and poor prognosis. Transfer was agreed at approximately 16.00. My last entry in the notes was at 17.10. I had seen no substantial change in his condition by that stage although it was reported to me by the nursing staff that he flexed to voices. I again spoke with the family and brought them up to date with developments and Conor was transferred shortly afterwards. This was the end of my contact with Conor.


Charles McAllister
Consultant Anaesthetist