

## BRIEF FOR EXPERT ON RADIOLOGY

### ADAM STRAIN

#### Introduction and Terms of Reference

1. Adam Strain is one of four children who are the subject of a public inquiry being conducted by John O'Hara QC.
2. The Inquiry was established under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972, by virtue of the powers conferred on the Department by Article 54 and Schedule 8 and it continues pursuant to the Inquiries Act 2005.
  1. The care and treatment of Adam Strain and Raychel Ferguson, especially in relation to the management of fluid balance and the choice and administration of intravenous fluids in each case.
  2. The actions of the statutory authorities, other organisations and responsible individuals concerned in the procedures, investigations and events which followed the deaths of Adam Strain and Raychel Ferguson.
  3. The communications with and explanations given to the respective families and others by the relevant authorities.

In addition, Mr O'Hara will:

- (a) Report by 1 June 2005 or such date as may be agreed with the Department, on the areas specifically identified above and, at his discretion, examine and report on any other matters which arise in connection with the Inquiry.
- (b) Make such recommendations to the Department of Health, Social services and Public Safety as he considers necessary and appropriate.

#### History Summary

3. Adam was born on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1991. He died on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1995 in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children ("the Royal") following kidney transplant surgery.
4. Adam had end stage polyuric renal failure due to renal dysplasia. He had a gastrostomy tube in situ. At the end of the surgical procedure, he was found to have fixed and dilated pupils. He remained intubated and ventilated, but was declared brain stem dead 24 hours later.
5. The Inquest into his death was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 1996. The Inquest Verdict identified Cerebral Oedema as the cause of his death with Dilutional Hyponatraemia as a contributory factor.

**Requirements**

6. The Inquiry team requires your assistance with the following matters:
  - (1) Please report on the chest x-ray (attached) taken at 1.20pm on 27th November 1995 (2 hours after the end of the operation).
  - (2) In particular, please report on:
    - (a) The state of the lungs
    - (b) The position of the CVP catheter
    - (c) Whether there is any evidence of subcutaneous oedema.

**Conclusion**

7. It is of fundamental importance that the Inquiry receives a clear and reasoned opinion on these issues.
8. Your assistance on the Inquiry's requirements should be provided in the form of an Expert's Report (please reference if necessary).