

The Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths

Chairman: Mr John O'Hara QC

Dr McAloon

Our Ref: AD-0637-13

Date: 13th September 2013

Dear Dr McAloon,

At its forthcoming Oral Hearings the Inquiry will be examining the steps which were taken by hospitals in Northern Ireland to audit compliance with the DHSSPS Guidelines which addressed the prevention of hyponatraemia and were published in March 2002. The Inquiry understands that in 2003-04 you and Dr. Raj Kottyal were responsible for undertaking a regional audit of adherence to those Guidelines.

The Inquiry is in possession of the regional audit report which you wrote and which was sent to Dr. H. Campbell (Chief Medical Officer) on the 2 August 2004. The Inquiry also holds a copy of the paper which was authored by you and Dr. Kottyal on this subject, and was published in the Ulster Medical Journal in 2005.

The Inquiry understands that eight acute paediatric inpatient units in Northern Ireland participated in the audit and that each unit was asked to complete a single page data collection form for each patient. Presumably these data collection forms were sent to you so that you could interpret and collate same and produce the report. The Inquiry now wishes to receive a copy of your correspondence with the eight acute paediatric inpatient units in Northern Ireland where the audit was conducted and the data that each unit supplied to you.

If any unit provided any additional information when submitting their data collection forms, such as an explanation for how the Guidelines have been implemented in any particular unit, the Inquiry would wish to see that also.

Secretary: Bernie Conlon

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If you no longer hold any documentation of the type described above, please explain what has become of the documentation and state when it was last in your possession. Furthermore, please outline whether you are aware of any audit or monitoring, whether formal or informal, having been undertaken by the Department or any hospital unit in Northern Ireland to assess compliance with the Guidelines at any time before you conducted the regional audit.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Dillon', written in a cursive style.

Anne Dillon
Solicitor to the Inquiry