



URGENT

22 August 2013

ALL BHSCT CONSULTANTS and CAREER GRADE STAFF

Dear Colleague

Administration of IV Fluids to Children and Reducing the Risk of Hyponatraemia

As part of continuing work throughout the BHSCT to improve how we manage the above issues, we have been reviewing our approach to testing staff competence in IV fluid administration and reducing the risk of hyponatraemia in children from the age of 4 weeks and up to their 16th birthday. This is particularly in the light of recent public scrutiny of this topic; several interrelated RQIA reports, the recent availability of regional fluid prescription and balance charts and continuing directives from the HSCB and PHA.

In particular, we are required to ensure that all staff involved in prescribing, administering and monitoring IV fluids to children have the knowledge to prescribe those IV fluids and that it is within their scope of practice. Consequently, it is obligatory for all relevant staff to have documented completion of all of the relevant training (including case studies in 2b.) found at:-

1. the BMJ website at <http://learning.bmj.com/learning/search-result.html?moduleid=5003358>

and the

2. BHSCT training available on the HUB at:-

a. Paediatric IV Fluid therapy & Hyponatraemia

b. How to complete - Paediatric Daily fluid prescription & balance chart

It is essential that you complete the training if you have, or may have, any involvement in the administration of intravenous fluids to children aged from 4 weeks until their 16th birthday, either directly or indirectly (i.e. supervision of junior doctors who have responsibility for administration of such fluids), even if this arises only occasionally. This will need to be updated every 3 years.

I appreciate the extra effort this will mean to clinicians responsible for children in adult areas who may only care for them occasionally, but we have no alternative until such times that paediatric and young peoples' services are reconfigured.

I therefore must ask that you complete the attached proforma and email it to [REDACTED] on or before 30 September.

Please speak with your Clinical Director if you are unsure how to complete it.

Yours sincerely

**Dr A B Stevens
Medical Director**

PROFORMA

Administration of intravenous fluids to children aged from 1 month until the 16th birthday :- reducing the risk of hyponatraemia

FULL NAME:- _____

SPECIALTY:- _____

GMC NUMBER:- _____

PLEASE CIRCLE BELOW AS APPROPRIATE

I confirm that I have completed training in relation to the administration of intravenous fluids to children aged from 1 month until the 16th birthday. I completed the training on

	Date
1. eBMJ online learning - produce certificate	
2a. Paediatric IV Fluid therapy & Hyponatraemia	
2b. How to complete - Paediatric Daily fluid prescription & balance chart	

OR

I confirm that I am not required in the course of my practice to administer intravenous fluids to children aged from 1 month until the 16th birthday or to supervise the administration of such fluids, and that where such circumstance exceptionally arises, that I will ensure I obtain advice from colleagues with appropriate expertise.

SIGNATURE :- _____

DATE :- _____