

**NAME OF CHILD:** Adam Strain

**Name:** Cathy Hall

**Title:**

**Present position and institution:**

Team Leader, Ergonomics Team South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

**Previous position and institution:**

*[As at the time of the child's death]*

*Staff Nurse, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Falls Road, Belfast BT126BE*

**Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:**

*[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995-December 2010]*

*In 2004 took up membership with the Northern Ireland Back Exchange which is affiliated to the National Back Exchange (a multidisciplinary group for those with an interest in back care and prevention of work related musculoskeletal problems)*

**Other Statements, Depositions and Reports:**

*[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]*

06.04.06 PSNI Witness statement

**OFFICIAL USE:**

**List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached (\*):**

Ref:	Date:	
093-019	06.04.06	PSNI Witness Statement

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANSWERING:**

Please attach additional sheets if more space is required. Please identify clearly any document to which you refer or rely upon for your answer. If the document has an Inquiry reference number, e.g. Ref: 049-001-001 which is 'Chart No.1 Old Notes', then please provide that number. If the document does not have such a number then please provide a copy of the document.

**I QUERIES ARISING OUT OF YOUR PSNI WITNESS STATEMENT**

With reference to your PSNI Witness Statement dated 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 (Ref: 093-019-054), please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(1) *"In November 1995 I was a staff nurse in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and had been there since 1986. I am a Registered Sick Children's Nurse on part 8 of the NMC Register. I don't remember too much about Adam Strain, however, I have read the notes and can say that I took over the care of Adam at 2.00 pm in intensive care after he had come out of surgery. Staff Nurse Knaggs had been caring for him up until then"* (Ref: 093-019-054)

(a) Describe your work commitments to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) from the date of your employment and particularly over the period 26<sup>th</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> November 1995.

I was employed as an E Grade Staff Nurse responsible for the assessment and evaluation of care needs of the sick child. I would have been expected to carry out all relevant forms of care without direct supervision and could be required to demonstrate procedures to and supervise qualified or unqualified staff.

(b) Describe in detail your role, if any, in the care and treatment of Adam prior to 26<sup>th</sup> November 1995, including:

- your knowledge of his condition, medication and previous treatment
- the fluid management regime employed on each occasion and
- the lessons you learned from your prior treatment of Adam

In 1991, I signed Adam's Drug recording sheet twice for checking drugs with another member of staff. Other than this I was not directly involved in caring for Adam prior to 26<sup>th</sup> November 1995

ICU Drug Recording Sheet - 3.12.91 My signature 'C Giblin' along with M Wilkin on Adam's drug record sheets for administration of antibiotics. 049-032-225

ICU Drug Recording Sheet - 03.12.91 My signature 'C Giblin' along with someone else on Adam's drug record sheets for administration of B+D. 049-032-227 (B - Cefatoxime and D - Flucloxicillin 049-032-226)

- Adam Strain was a four month old boy transferred from the Ulster Hospital for management of renal failure.
- No fluid management was undertaken by me
- No lessons were learned from administering antibiotics to Adam.

**(c) State when you first came on duty in PICU on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995.**

I have no recollection when I first came on duty on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995. It is probable that I came on duty at 2pm. No off-duty records are available for this time period.

**(d) Describe what you considered to be your role in relation to and responsibilities towards Adam from his admission to PICU on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995 until 28<sup>th</sup> November 1995 when ventilatory support for him was withdrawn**

The Nurse 'in charge' in the PICU on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 1995 would have made out a list of patients and who would care for them during the day and night shifts.

According to the Nursing Care Plan I took over Adams care at 2pm. My roles and responsibilities would have been to care for his needs during my shift until 8pm, including; assessment of Adams needs, close monitoring and recording of his vital signs and central nervous system status, administration and recording his fluid balance and drug therapy reporting any changes to the Medical Team. I resumed duty at 08:00 on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1995 and continued to care for Adam until after his death that morning.

**(e) Describe and explain any discussions you had with Staff Nurse Knaggs at the handover at 2.00pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995**

I do not recall my discussion with Staff Knaggs at 14:00 on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995 but it would have been routine practice for her to have given me a detailed account of any patient's condition for whom I was assuming care. In this case this would have included the fact that Adam had returned to PICU from theatre following a kidney transplant and that on arrival he was being hand ventilated due to failure to waken following anaesthetic (058-038-155). Records show that his pupils were fixed and dilated, that Mannitol had been administered and shown what his fluid balance status was.

**(f) Describe Adam's appearance during his time in PICU**

I have no recollection of Adams appearance during his time in PICU

**(g) Describe and explain the information given to Adam's family during his time in PICU**

I have no recollection of discussions with Adams family in PICU.

Ref: 058-038-(180-181) - Relative counselling records were completed by staff describing explanations and information given to Adam's family. Medical staff will also have had discussions with Adams family.

**II ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- (2) Describe in detail the education and training you received in fluid management (in particular hyponatraemia) and record keeping through the following, providing dates and names of the institutions/bodies:**

**(a) Pre-registration education**

I completed Paediatric Nurse Training in the School of Nursing, Musson House, Royal Group of Hospitals in 1984.

**(b) Post-registration education and training**

**(c) Hospital induction programmes**

I don't have any records of my training and education in relation to fluid management and management of hyponatraemia during my pre and post registration training. I do not remember receiving a formal induction into PICU in 1986.

**(d) Continuous professional development:**

I was involved in day to day discussions in relation to the management of fluids in PICU

**(3) Prior to 26<sup>th</sup> November 1995, describe in detail your experience of children with hyponatraemia, including the:**

- estimated total number of such cases, together with the dates and where they took place
- number of the children who were aged less than 6 years old
- number of children who were polyuric
- nature of your involvement
- outcome for the children

I have no recollection of having nursed or cared for a child with hyponatraemia prior to Adam in November 1995

**(4) Since 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995, describe in detail your experience of children with hyponatraemia, including the:**

- estimated total number of such cases, together with the dates and where they took place
- number of the children who were aged less than 6 years old
- number of children who were polyuric
- nature of your involvement
- outcome for the children

I have no recollection of having nursed or cared for a child with hyponatraemia since November 1995

**(5) Identify precisely on Adam's medical notes and records the entries that you made or which were made on your direction and state below:**

- (a) when each of the identified entries was made**
- (b) the source of the information recorded in the entry**

Nursing Care Plan (058-038-156, 157).

- a) 6.00pm 27.11.95
- b) I do not recall where the medical information came from. Adam's Mother provided the personal details

Patient assessment (058-038-159,158)

- a) 2.00pm 27.11.95
- b) I do not recall where the the information on Adam's normal eating and drinking pattern came from. Adam's Mother provided the other personal information describing what would have been the 'norm' for Adam.

Nursing Care Plan (058-038-155, 154)

- a) 7.30pm 27.11.95, 1.00pm 28.11.95
- b) Evaluations with comments signed by me

Nursing Care Plan (058-038-153, 151, 151a, 150, 149)

- (a) 7.45pm 27.11.95, 1.00pm 28.11.95 (058-038-149 2pm-8pm comments not timed)
- (b) Evaluations with comments signed by me

Nursing Care Plan (058-038-160,162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178)

- a) 8.00pm 27.11.95, 1.00pm 28.11.95 (058-038-178 8am- comment not timed)
- b) Evaluation with comments signed by me

Nursing Progress Notes (058-038-182,183)

- a) Untimed 27.11.95, untimed 28.11.95
- b) Progress reports signed by me

Fluid Balance Sheet (057-018-026, 027)

- a) 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm 27.11.95
- b) Recording of measurements and checks by me

Fluid Balance Sheet (057-018-024)

- a) 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am 28.11.95
- b) Recording of measurements and checks by me

Drug Recording Sheet (058-005-011)

- a) 13.55 and untimed entry 27.11.95
- b) Co-signature for drug administration, and recording of weight measurement by me

Drug Recording Sheet (058-005-013)

- a) 16.33 27.11.95
- b) Co-signature for drug administration by me

Daily Record Sheet (057-009-010,011,012)

- a) 2.00pm, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 5.00pm, 6.00pm, 7.00pm, 8.00pm 27.11.95
- b) Recording of samples sent, settings, results and observations by me

Daily Record Sheet (057-020-030,031)

- a) 08.00am, 09.00am 28.11.95
- b) Recording of settings, results, observations, and staff details by me

**(6) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make, together with any documents, in relation to:**

**(a) the care and treatment of Adam from his admission for the renal transplant surgery on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1995 to his death on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1995**

**(b) Record keeping**

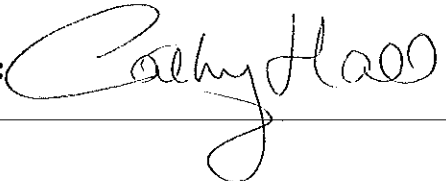
**(c) Communications with Adam's family about his care and treatment in respect of the renal transplant surgery**

**(d) Lessons learned from Adam's death and its effect on your practice**

**(e) Current 'protocols' and procedures**

**(f) Any other relevant matter**

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF

Signed: 

Dated: 5.4.11