

Witness Statement Ref. No.

005/2

NAME OF CHILD: Adam Strain

Name: Catherine Murphy

Title: Mrs

Present position and institution: None

Previous position(s) and institution(s):

[Since your Witness Statement of 18th July 2005] None

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those since your Witness Statement of 18th July 2005]

None

Other Statements, Depositions and Reports:

[Identify by date and title all those since your Witness Statement of 18th July 2005]

None

OFFICIAL USE:

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

Ref:	Date:	
005/1	18.07.05	Witness Statement to the Inquiry
093-007	31.01.06	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 INQUIRY WITNESS STATEMENT

With reference to your Inquiry Witness Statement dated 18th July 2005, please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(1) Answer to Question 1 at p.2

"I was the Staff Nurse who admitted Adam Strain to Musgrave Ward, RBHSC on the 26th November 1995 at 9pm as a possible donor kidney had been found for him. As the admitting nurse I recorded his temperature, pulse, blood pressure and weight. I took a patient history and noted his current medication (057-011-015, 057-012-016 and 057-013-017, 018)"

- (a) Describe your work commitments to the Royal Belfast hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) from the start of your employment there and particularly over the period 26th November to 28th November 1995**

From 1990, and throughout my employment at RBHSC until 1997, I was employed as a Staff Nurse on Musgrave Ward.

(b) Prior to 27th November 1995:

- state your experience and involvement in preparing patients for paediatric renal transplants, the dates of those renal transplants and the location where they took place
- state your experience in preparing paediatric patients, who were polyuric, for paediatric renal transplants
- describe your paediatric experience in terms of the average number of children per month aged less than 6 years old that you prepared for operation in 1995
- state the number of children, aged less than 6 years old, whom you had prepared for a renal transplant before Adam

As a Staff Nurse on Musgrave Ward prior to 27th November 1995 I would have been involved in the nursing care of children with a wide variety of medical conditions including patients with renal disease. Without having sight of the case notes for all renal patients admitted to Musgrave Ward, I have no specific recollection of how many children I provided nursing care to prior to renal transplant. Nor can I specify my experience in preparing polyuric patients for kidney transplant nor the average number of children aged less than 6 years that I prepared for operation in 1995 or those less than 6 years old that I prepared for transplant before Adam.

(c) Since 27th November 1995:

- state your experience and involvement in preparing patients for paediatric renal

transplants, the dates of those renal transplants and the location where they took place

I continued to nurse on Musgrave Ward from 1995 until 1997 when I then left nursing. Again, without referring to the notes for all admissions to the ward during that period I simply have no way of determining my experience and involvement of preparing patients for paediatric transplant, the dates of said transplants or their location.

- **state your experience in preparing paediatric patients, who were polyuric, for paediatric renal transplants**

I continued to nurse on Musgrave Ward from 1995 until 1997 when I left nursing. Without referring to the notes for all admissions to the ward during that period I have no way of determining my experience of preparing polyuric patients for paediatric transplant.

- **describe your paediatric experience in terms of the average number of children per month aged less than 6 years old whom you have prepared for operation**

I continued to nurse on Musgrave Ward for a further two years from 1995 until 1997 when I left nursing. Without referring to the notes for all admissions to the ward during that period I have no way of knowing/ quantifying the average number of children per month aged less than 6 years that I prepared for operation.

- **state the number of children, aged less than 6 years old whom you have prepared for a renal transplant**

I continued to nurse on Musgrave Ward from 1995 until 1997 when I left nursing. Without referring to the notes for all admissions to the ward during that period I have no way of knowing/quantifying the number of children that I prepared for renal transplant.

- (d) State the times at which you were on duty between 26th and 28th November 1995 and present in the RBHSC**

I have kept no personal record of the times I was on duty between the dates stated and without being able to check the duty rota for that period of time, the only time that I can be certain I was on duty between the 26th and 28th November 1995 is the period where I have made entries in nursing notes from 9pm on 26th November until 7am the following morning the 27th November.

- (e) State what contact you had with Adam between his admission on 26th November 1995 and the withdrawal of ventilatory support from him on 28th November 1995, including where that contact took place, its nature and purpose.**

In consulting the nursing notes I can only state that I had contact with Adam as a ward staff nurse while he was a patient on Musgrave Ward from approximately 9pm until his transfer to theatre at 7am the following morning, the 27th November. I have no recollection of being in contact with Adam after his transfer to theatre.

- (f) Describe what you considered to be your role in relation to and responsibilities towards Adam from learning on 26th November 1995 of a potential donor kidney for him until 28th November 1995 when ventilatory support for him was withdrawn, and in particular:**

- from Adam's admission to RBHSC until his arrival in theatre
- while Adam was in theatre until his admission to PICU
- from admission to PICU until his death

My role and responsibilities towards Adam would have been to deliver his nursing care as part of a multidisciplinary team while he was a patient on Musgrave Ward.

(g) Describe any other responsibilities you had whilst caring for Adam between his admission to Musgrave Ward and transfer to theatre the following morning

I have no specific recollection of other responsibilities I may have had whilst caring for Adam between his admission to the ward and his transfer to theatre.

(h) Identify the nurse in charge of Musgrave Ward between Adam's admission on 26th November 1995 and his transfer to theatre on 27th November 1995

I have been out of Nursing almost 14 years and have had no contact with staff or management of RBHSC. I have no personal records of my work from that time and without being able to consult the duty rota for that period I would be unable to identify the nurse in charge of Musgrave Ward at the time of Adams admission

(i) State whether there was a night sister covering nursing issues arising on Musgrave Ward between Adam's admission on 26th November 1995 and his transfer to theatre on 27th November 1995, and if so, identify the person/s who was night sister during that period

I have no personal records of my work at that time and without being able to consult the hospital staff records for that period I would be unable to say for certain that there was a night sister covering nursing issues on Musgrave Ward during the times stated and therefore also unable to identify the night sister who may have been on duty.

(j) Identify any protocol or guidelines governing your actions in respect of Adam over the period 26th November to 27th November 1995

I have no recollection of any protocol or guidelines governing my actions in respect of Adam over the period stated. Admission procedure was carried out following the specific assessment criteria contained on the ward admission sheet.(057-013-017,018,019)

(k) Describe your discussions with any clinician about the pre-operative fluid management plan, including:

- identifying the clinician
- stating what was discussed and when and where it was discussed
- describing what you understood to be Adam's pre-operative fluid management plan and the basis for that understanding

Due to the passage of time I have no recollection of any discussions with any clinician about pre-operative fluid management.

(l) Describe your contribution to implementing Adam's pre-operative management on 26th and 27th November 1995

Due to the passage of time, I can only rely on the notifications made in Adams nursing notes back in 1995 as an account of my contribution to Adams pre-operative management on 26th and 27th November as I have no recollection of the period itself. Relying on those notes I appear to have been the nurse who admitted Adam to Musgrave Ward, recorded his observations, temperature, pulse, blood pressure and weight and took a patient history. (057-013-017, 018, 019.) Throughout the night I recorded his fluid intake and output on the Fluid Balance sheet (057-010-013). I administered 250mg of paracetamol at 2am (057-021-033, 034, 057-022-035) and made a note in his nursing notes as to Adams care during the night prior to his transfer to theatre at 7am.(057-014-019)

(m) State in respect of "I recorded his ... weight" which of the entries for his weight in Ref: 057-012-016 and Ref: 057-013-018 you made and whether you carried out the weighing of him and:

- if so, the equipment that you used
- if not, the identity of the person who weighed him

Both of these entries appear to have been made by me, but I have no actual recollection of whether I carried out the weight measurement personally or whether someone else weighed Adam and I then noted it. I have no recollection of what equipment was used to take the measurement.

(n) Explain the reason that you 'noted his current medication'

I would have noted Adams 'current medication' as this was a routine part of the data collection required on ward admission forms.

(2) Answer to Question 1 at p.2

"Adam was given 180mls of clear fluid per hour through his gastrostomy tube and 20mls of IV fluids (intravenous fluids) per hour (057-010-013,014).

At 1.30am Adam's IV Cannula tissued. Dr O'Neill was informed and his clear fluids via gastosomy[sic] were increased to 200mls per hour (057-014-019). At 2am I gave Adam 240mg of paracetamol via his gastrostomy tube (057-021-033, 034 and 057-022-035)"

(a) State what the "clear fluid" was

Due to the passage of time and without an exact description of 'clear fluids' in Adams notes I cannot recall what the clear fluid was.

(b) Identify the person who prescribed the "20mls of IV fluids (intravenous fluids) per hour (057-010-013, 014)" and identify also the document that prescribes that volume to be administered at that rate.

Having consulted Adams case files, I cannot identify the person who prescribed 20 mls of IV fluids per hr, nor can I identify the document that prescribes that volume.

(c) State the time from which those IV fluids were administered to Adam at the rate of 20mls/hr

Having referred to the entry made on the Fluid Balance/I.v Prescription Sheet (057-010-013) it states that the IV Fluids commenced at 11pm, although I have no personal recollection of this.

(d) Describe and explain the process by which Adam's "clear fluids via his gastrostomy were increased to 200mls per hour", including:

- Identify the person who informed Dr. O'Neill that Adam's cannula had tissue and the reason for doing so
- Identify the person who prescribed that the clear fluids were to be "increased to 200mls per hour"

Due to having no recollection of this I can only assume that Adams clear fluids via his gastrostomy were increased by increasing the rate of flow per hour on the feeding pump and with no reference in the nursing notes as to who informed Dr. O'Neill I cannot identify who did inform Dr. O'Neill that Adams cannula had tissue. I also cannot identify from consulting the notes who prescribed the clear fluids to be increased to 200mls per hour.

(e) Identify the medical Registrar on duty between 8pm on 26th November and 7am on 27th November 1995

Cannot recollect who the Medical Registrar on duty was.

(3) Answer to Question 1 at p.2

"Adam had his normal peritoneal dialysis overnight which was stopped at 6am as per doctors order. Adam was transferred to theatre at 7am."

(a) State who was responsible for managing Adam's peritoneal dialysis and state:

- whether Adam was weighed before and after dialysis
- whether it was usual to weigh children pre and post-dialysis
- how and where each dialysis cycle was recorded
- identify the person that directed the peritoneal dialysis to stop at 6am, when this direction was given and to whom
- the time at which you understood that surgery was commencing, when and why you had that understanding

I have no recollection of who was responsible for managing Adams peritoneal dialysis and having consulted his notes I cannot locate a record of the dialysis cycles. I can only refer to Adams recorded weight on admission as it was recorded by me (057-012-016, 057-013-018). I also have no recollection whether it was usual to weigh children pre & post dialysis back in November 1995. Having consulted Adams notes I cannot locate where each dialysis cycle was recorded. I also cannot identify the person who gave this direction, when it was given or to whom it was directed that dialysis was to be stopped at 6am.

I have no recollection of being informed when surgery was to commence other than by consulting the nursing notes (057-014-019) that Adam was transferred to theatre at 7am.

(b) Identify the guidelines or protocols in RBHSC governing the care, management and monitoring of children receiving dialysis in November 1995

I have been away from the Nursing profession for almost 14 years and due to the passage of time I have no recollection of guidelines or protocols in RBHSC in November 1995 that governed the care, management and monitoring of children receiving dialysis.

(4) Answer to Question 1 at p.2

"Although his patient notes say that he had his cannula reinserted at 5am I have a vague memory of the doctor having difficulty in inserting this and Adam going to theatre without IV access being obtained (057-014-019)"

(a) Describe your role, if any, in assisting in the attempts to:

- gain IV access to Adam after the cannula tissue at 1.30am on 27th November 1995.
- obtain a further blood sample from Adam after the cannula tissue at 1.30am on 27th November 1995

Due to the passage of time I have no recollection of the attempts to gain IV access to Adam after his cannula tissue or to obtain further blood samples from him, I therefore cannot say whether I had any role in this.

(b) Explain why Adam's notes record "Reinsertion of Cannula @ 5am" when you "have a vague memory of the doctor having difficulty in inserting this and Adam going to theatre without IV access", including:

- when the entry in Adam's notes were made
- the source of the information from which the note was made

The entry in Adams notes that record 'Reinsertion of Cannula @ 5am' would to the best of my knowledge have been made after 5am on the morning of 27th November before I would have left the ward at the end of my shift. (057-014-019) These entries on the nursing notes will be an accurate record of what took place on the ward. Having subsequently been asked almost 10 years later to provide a witness statement to the enquiry in 2005, I had a vague memory of Adam going to theatre without IV access. Although I could not in any way substantiate this, in an attempt to give the fullest of co-operation at the time of the witness statement in 2005 I thought it prudent to mention it. I would accept that the statement in 2005 is not based on any solid knowledge or recall on my part and is just a vague memory of the event.

(c) Identify the doctor who had difficulty in inserting the cannula and what was done about the difficulty that he had experienced, including what action you took when the doctor was unable to reinsert the cannula

I cannot recall who the doctor was who had difficulty in inserting Adams cannula and what action was taken by me or anyone else in relation to this event.

(5) Answer to 'Other points' at p.3

"The only vivid memory I have is of telling Debbie (Adam's mum) that he would 'be fine' on being transferred to theatre on the morning of the transplant - an assurance which I feel regret and guilt at making."

(a) State when and where you told Adam's mother "that he would 'be fine'"

I cannot recollect when and where I was when I said to Adams mother 'that he would be fine'. It is just a memory that comes to mind from that time. I can only assume that this took place on Musgrave Ward prior to Adams transfer to theatre.

II QUERIES ARISING OUT OF YOUR PSNI WITNESS STATEMENT

With reference to your PSNI Witness Statement dated 31st January 2006 (Ref: 093-007-023), please provide clarification and/or further information in respect of the following:

(6) *"I qualified as a Registered Sick Children's Nurse in 1990; I went straight from my training to Musgrave Ward at the Royal Victoria Hospital. I stayed here until I ceased nursing in 1997. Adam Strain was a frequent visitor to our ward, I had admitted him and nursed him on many occasions. I do not actually remember admitting Adam on 26th November 1995 as I had admitted him on many occasions before, however, from the notes I know that I was the admitting nurse on this date."*

(a) State the date on which you first become involved in the medical care of Adam

From looking through Adams nursing notes, the first notation made by me appears to be on 27/10/1992. (054-045-104).

(b) Describe your role in the care and treatment of Adam from when you first became involved in the medical care of Adam up to his admission for renal transplant on 26th November 1995, with particular reference to the following periods:

- 26th November 1991 to 17th April 1991
- 8th February 1993
- 23rd August 1994 to 26th August 1994
- 18th October 1995

and describe any lessons that were learned about Adam's fluid management over those periods

The period 26th November 1991 to 17th April 1991 is presumably a typographical error for 1992. Having consulted the nursing notes contained within Adams patient records, with particular reference to the dates provided, I cannot identify any entries made by me and can therefore not give any description of the role I played in Adams care and treatment on any of the dates referenced above. My role on 27th October 1992 was to complete the Nursing report.

(7) *"I would have ensured that he did not eat and would have looked after the fluids that had been prescribed. I do not remember who else was on duty on the ward that night."*

(a) Describe how you *"looked after the fluids that had been prescribed"* and what those fluids were.

Having no recollection of the events of that night but by referencing the notes I made in Adams nursing records (057-010-013 & 057-014-019) I checked and recorded the amounts of hourly fluids that were delivered via IV therapy and via Adams gastrostomy tube. I have recorded his fluids via gastrostomy as 'clear fluids' but I have no recollection of what those fluids were, nor can I find an entry in his notes. The IV fluids I have recorded on Adams Fluid Balance sheet (057-010-013) as 5/N @ 20mls/hr.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(8) 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**

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

- (c) Hospital induction programmes**

- (d) Continuous professional development**

I trained at the Royal Belfast Hospital For Sick Children from 1987 to 1990 and any training/ education in fluid management and record keeping I received would have been included in the nurse training curriculum and hospital induction programme at that time. I have no recollection or record of any specific post-registration education and training. Due to the passage of time I am unable to be more specific as to the detail of the training.

(9) Prior to 26th 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**

As a Staff Nurse on Musgrave Ward from 1990 to 26th November 1995 I would have been involved in the nursing care of children with a wide variety of medical conditions. Without having sight of the case notes for all patients admitted to Musgrave Ward, I have no means of identifying of how many hyponatraemic children I provided nursing care to. Nor can I specify the number of children aged less than 6 years nor the number of children who were polyuric.

(10) Describe in your detail your experience, since 27th November 1995, in the care and management of children with hyponatraemia

I continued to nurse on Musgrave Ward from 1995 until 1997 when I then left the nursing profession. Without having sight of the case notes for all patients admitted to Musgrave Ward, I have no means of identifying how many hyponatraemic children I provided nursing care to. Since leaving Musgrave Ward in 1997 I have had had no further nursing experience in the care and management of children with hyponatraemia.

(11) 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

057-010-013,014, 057-011-015, 057-012-016, 057-013-017, 057-013-018, 057-014-019, 057-021-033,034, 057-022-035

These entries were made as per the dates recorded on the notes. I am the source of these entries.

(12) 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 26th November 1995 to his death on 28th November 1995

(b) Record keeping

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

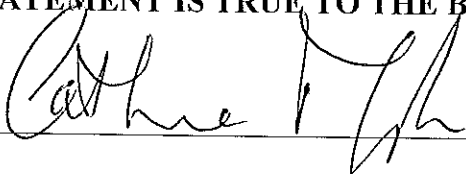
(d) Lessons learned from Adam's death and how that has affected your practice

(e) Current 'protocols' and procedures

(f) Any other relevant matter

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

Signed:



Dated:

13/4/2011