

Witness Statement Ref. No. 010/1

**NAME OF CHILD:** Adam Strain

**Name:** G Popplestone

**Title:** Staff Nurse

**Present position and institution:** Staff Nurse, Women and Child Health, Ulster Hospital

**Previous position and institution:** Staff Nurse, Theatres, RBHSC  
*[As at the time of the child's death]*

**Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:**  
*[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995-December 2004]*

NONE

**Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:**  
*[Identify by date and title all those made in relation to the child's death]*

NONE

**OFFICIAL USE:**  
**List of previous statement, depositions and reports attached:**

Ref:	Date:	

**Particular areas of interest**

*[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]*

- 1. Describe in detail your role during the transplant surgery, including:**
- (i) exactly how the blood loss was calculated for the purpose of Adam's fluid management; and**
  - (ii) to whom and when that information was provided.**

The transplant surgery was already underway when I came on duty at 8am on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1995. I took over as scrub nurse for the duration of the surgery.

My responsibility was to assist the surgeons passing instruments, swabs and sutures as required. Any blood soaked swabs either passed to me or removed by me were placed in a metal runabout at floor level. They were retrieved by the circulating nurse, who weighed them recording the loss on a white notice board on the wall which was visible to all staff. Once the swabs were weighed they were placed on a swab rack by the circulating nurse. This rack was clearly visible in theatre. By placing them on the rack, this also ensured that when the counts were being completed they were clearly visible to myself and the circulating nurse to facilitate an accurate count. The loss was recorded as a running total. Any blood suctioned from the abdominal cavity was collected in a measuring bottle.

As the procedure ended all swabs, sutures and instruments were accounted for during 4 counts, one at each stage of closure. These counts were between myself and the circulating nurse. Everything was correct and accounted for at the end of the operation. (058-007-020)

**Other points you wish to make including additions to any previous Statements, Depositions and or Reports**

*[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]*

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

Signed: *S. R. Popplestone*

Dated: *31/01/06.*