

LITIGATION
01 DEC 2011
SERVICES

Witness Statement Ref. No. 028

NAME OF CHILD: Raychel Ferguson

Name: Michael Curran

Title: DOCTOR

Present position and institution: SALARIED GP - LIMAVADY Health Centre.
(GENERAL PRACTITIONER)

Previous position and institution: JUNIOR HOUSE OFFICER - SURGERY
[As at the time of the child's death] Altnagelduin Area Hospital.

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

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

OFFICIAL USE:
List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:	Date:	

HEAD OF QUALITY
25 NOV 2011
AND SAFETY

Particular areas of interest

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

1. Describe your role in the treatment of Raychel Ferguson on the evening of 8th June 2001 to include:
 - (i) the request you received from nursing staff at 21.15 hours that night to prescribe valoid for Raychel;
 - (ii) the information given to you by nursing staff in respect of Raychel; and
 - (iii) any examination of Raychel, conversation with her parents or inquiries made by you before you prescribed/administered valoid at 22.15 hours.

I was working as a Surgical Junior house officer on the night of 8th June 2001 at Altnagelvin Hospital. I began working as a Junior house officer in August 2000 at Altnagelvin hospital following graduation from Belfast medical School in 2000. I have a very limited recollection of specific events on the evening/night of 8th June 2001.

I was contacted by a staff nurse on ward 6 (childrens ward) and asked to prescribe/administer an anti-emetic for Raychel Ferguson who had vomited. I noted she was post operative following appendicectomy. I am not sure what time this bleed was at but I feel I went to the ward around 10pm approximately. I would have spoken to the staff nurse prior to seeing Raychel. I would have assessed Raychel and palpated her abdomen. I noted her observations that are recorded on her chart. She did not have a temperature. Her pulse and respiratory rate were normal. She was not actively vomiting or distressed when I assessed her. I prescribed and administered valoid 25mg IV at 22.15 hours. I cannot recall if I spoke to the parents of Raychel. I cannot recall any specific details of conversation/s with the staff nurse.

2. Describe your role in the treatment of Raychel Ferguson from 3.05am when you were asked by

Dr Johnston to assist him with Raychel to include:

- (i) with whom on the surgical team you liaised, if anyone; and
- (ii) tests carried out by you and your conclusions/observations.

I was bleeped by the paediatric Senior house officer Dr Johnston at 3:19am. I know this time to be accurate as I have a record of the pager time. He was bleeping me from childrens ward where Raychel was and I was advised by him that Raychel had had a seizure. He advised me to take bloods for certain blood tests and an ECG (electrocardiogram) and to contact a Senior Surgical doctor to advise him of the seizure. I cannot recall where I was in the hospital at that time. A Surgical Junior house officer covers patients on several wards including patients on the 1st, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th floors. I went straight to ward 6 (childrens ward) and took blood samples for electrolyte profile, magnesium, base profile and full blood count. I believe a staff nurse assisted me when I was taking the blood tests. I also believe I did an ECG (electrocardiogram). I contacted the Surgical Senior house officer after I had taken the bloods/ECG (3:44am) and advised him that Raychel had had a seizure and remained on the ward.

(continued next page).

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]

(Continued)

The paediatric registrar arrived on the ward (childrens ward). The electrolyte profile from 3:30am approximately returned showing a Sodium level of 119 (hyponatraemia). She advised me to repeat the electrolyte profile and a pH level. I took these repeat blood tests (approximately 04:30am). The Paediatric Registrar advised me to take the pH blood test sample to SCBU (Special care baby unit) to be processed by the paediatric Senior House officer who was there, (the pH blood test machine was located there). I left ward 6 to go to SCBU to process the pH blood test at approximately 04:30am and arrived back within 10 minutes. The Paediatric Registrar remained in ward 6 after I left to go to SCBU with the blood test.

When I arrived back in ward 6, Raychel was transferred to the treatment room and the Anaesthetic Registrar / Senior house officer was briefed. The Paediatric consultant was phoned to come in. From the time Raychel was moved to the treatment room the paediatric Registrar and anaesthetic team were caring for Raychel. I cannot recall any specific tasks I was asked to do or events after this time.

Signed:

M. Curran

Dated:

23/11/2011