

Witness Statement Ref. No. 081/1**INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA-RELATED DEATHS****Name: Dr Margaret Mark****Title:** Retired**Present position and department/employer:**

Retired 31 March 2005

Previously Medical Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Length of time in post: 17 years**Previous position and department/employer in 1995:**

Medical Officer (Medical Referee Service, Royston House), Department of Health and Social Services

Previous position and department/employer in 2000:

Medical Officer (Medical Support Services, Royston House), Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety

Previous position and department/employer in 2001:

Medical Officer (Core Department, Castle Buildings), Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety

Membership of Professionals Bodies:

Member of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Member of the Society of Occupational Health Medicine

Particular areas of interest

[Please attach additional sheets if more space is required]

(i) How and when did you first become aware of the deaths of Adam, Lucy and Raychel?

I first became aware of the death of Raychel when this was discussed at the CMO/Directors of Public Health Medicine meeting on 2nd July 2001 (minutes at 075-081-323) which I attended as medical secretary.

I became aware of the deaths of Adam and Lucy from the media; I do not remember the dates.

(ii) Describe in detail the steps you took:

- (1) to discover why the children died;**
- (2) why the DHSSPS was not made aware of the deaths at an earlier stage; and**
- (3) to ensure that lessons would be learned for the future.**

I took no steps.

Particular areas of interest (Cont'd)

(iii) Give details of your colleagues within the DHSSPS with whom you discussed the steps to be taken in response to the deaths of Adam, Lucy and Raychel to include the reasons why and when they were contacted by you and the outcome of your discussions.

I attended the CMO/Directors of Public Health meetings on 2nd July 2001 (075-081-323), 3rd September 2001(075-082-329), 5th November 2001(075-083-333) and 25th February 2002 (copy extract of minutes attached) as medical secretary when Guidance on Hyponatraemia was discussed.

I attended and took the Notes at a Meeting on 26th September 2001 (007-048-094) of a Working Group on Acute Hyponatraemia in Children in Castle Buildings chaired by Dr Darragh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and attended by Dr McCarthy, Senior Medical Officer.

I had no clinical input at these meetings and was not in a position to influence the response.

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

Margaret Chual

5 July 2005

Signed: Margaret C Mark

Dated: 5th July 2005.

**MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC HEALTH/DHSSPS
MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2002
10.00 AM – 1.00 PM
ROOM C5.15, CASTLE BUILDINGS, BELFAST**

PRESENT

DEPARTMENT

DsPH

Dr H Campbell
Dr P Darragh
Dr E Mitchell
Dr M Mark
Dr M Boyle
Dr M McCarthy
Dr N Chada
Dr C Willis

Dr W McConnell
Dr D Stewart
Dr A M Telford
Prof. J Watson

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2001

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

• **Hyponatraemia**

These Guidelines are now available for distribution and will be issued in A2 laminated format.

• **Neurosurgery/Neurology**

• Problems still continue in these areas with difficulties both in theatre availability and staffing.

• **NI Fracture Service**

There are continuing difficulties in this area.

• **Winter Pressures**