

Witness Statement Ref. No.

367/1

NAME OF CHILD: CONOR MITCHELL

Name: Miss Bridie Foy

Title: Acting Director of Nursing February 2001 - September 2002

Present position and institution: Retired

Previous position and institution:

[As at the time of the publication of the Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia in Children, March 2002]

Deputy Director of Nursing, Craigavon Area Hospital

Membership of Advisory Panels and Committees:

[Identify by date and title all of those between January 1995-August 2013]

1. Member of CAH Trust Corporate Business Group February 2001 - September 2002
2. Member of CAH Trust Board February 2001 - September 2002
3. Hospital Council February 2001 - September 2001
4. Chair of Nursing Officers Meeting 1992 - 1999, February 2001 - September 2002

Previous Statements, Depositions and Reports:

I had retired in September 2002 and I do not recall making any statements or reports regarding this case.

OFFICIAL USE:

List of previous statements, depositions and reports attached:

Ref:	Date:	

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 an Inquiry reference number, then please provide a copy of the document attached

(1) Please address the following,

(a) As of March 2002 state your nursing qualifications and the date you qualified as a medical doctor.

- **State Registered Nurse**
- **Registered Midwife**
- **Health Visitor Certificate**
- **Diploma in Health Service Management**

(b) State the date of your appointment to Craigavon Area Hospital, and the role to which you were appointed.

Deputy Director of Nursing June 1992

(c) On what date were you appointed to the role of Nursing Director, and for how long did you perform that role.

Acting Director of Nursing February 2001 - September 2002

(d) Outline your responsibilities and main duties as Nursing Director at Craigavon Area Hospital, and provide a copy of your job description. If you do not personally retain a copy of your job description, please take steps to obtain a copy from the Trust.

- **Leadership to all nursing staff within Craigavon Area Hospital**
- **To ensure nursing staff received appropriate in-service training relevant to their area of service**
- **Contribute to the Trust's overall management of patient service**
- **To cooperate with other disciplines within the Trust to ensure a high standard of patient care**
- **To keep up to date own professional knowledge and development**

(e) Describe your career history before you were appointed to Craigavon Area Hospital, and provide an up to date copy of your CV.

- **Staff Nurse Mater Hospital**
- **Staff Midwife Royal Maternity Hospital**
- **Staff Midwife Mater Hospital**
- **Health Visitor Antrim County Health Committee**
- **Nursing Officer Belfast South District**
- **Senior Nursing Officer Royal Victoria Hospital**
- **Deputy Director of Nursing Royal Victoria Hospital**

I have sought the assistance of the Human Resources department to locate my job description from their historical records. This will be forwarded upon receipt.

(f) Describe your work commitments to the Craigavon Area Hospital from the date of your appointment, stating the locations in which you worked and the periods of time in each department/location.

- **To assist the director of nursing in undertaking her role within the Trust**
- **To deputise for the Director of Nursing in her absence**

(2) Describe in detail the education and training you have received in fluid management, the prevention of hyponatraemia and record keeping in relation to fluid balance, to include any particular training relating to fluid management in children, and provide dates and names of the relevant institutions/bodies, by reference to the following:

(a) Undergraduate level.

I do not recall undertaking training in fluid management in relation to children

(b) Postgraduate level.

I do not recall undertaking training in fluid management in relation to children

(c) Hospital induction programmes.

I do not recall undertaking training in fluid management in relation to children

- (d) Continuous professional development.

I do not recall undertaking training in fluid management in relation to children

- (3) The Chief Medical Officer published 'Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia in Children' in or about March 2002. The correspondence which explained the purpose of this Guidance was addressed to Directors of Nursing in Acute Trusts amongst others (Ref: 007-001-001).

Please address the following matters arising out of this correspondence:

- (a) Was a copy of this correspondence shared with you in your capacity as Director of Nursing in Craigavon Area Hospital in March 2002?

I do not recall receiving a copy of the Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia in Children

- (b) If you did not receive a of this correspondence, how was the Guidance brought to your attention and state in particular:

I do not recall receiving a copy of the Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia in Children

- (i) Who brought the Guidance to your attention?

- (ii) When was it brought to your attention?

- (c) Before the Guidance was published in March 2002, were you made aware in your capacity as Director of Nursing or otherwise that work was being performed at a regional level in order to provide guidelines to assist clinicians on how to prevent hyponatraemia in children?

I do not recall any information regarding this matter.

If so, provide a detailed account of how this was brought to your attention, and what you understood was the reason behind the decision to develop such guidelines?

See above

- (d) Before the Guidance was published in March 2002, was any work done in Craigavon Area Hospital to develop local guidelines or protocols with respect to fluid management and how to prevent hyponatraemia in children?

I do not remember any information regarding this matter

If so, please outline the steps that were taken to develop such guidelines or protocols.

- (e) What steps, if any, did you take to ensure that the CMO's Guidance was distributed to, or brought to the attention of relevant staff in March 2002?

As stated above, I have no recollection of receiving this document, however, the policy regarding documents received by the Director of Nursing was:

- 1. All documents were copied to the relevant nursing officers for distribution to the appropriate wards / departments**
- 2. Documents relevant to more than one ward / department would also be discussed and noted at the Director of Nursing / Nursing Officer meetings**

- (f) Did you take any steps whether individually or as part of a group to take this Guidance forward within Craigavon Area Hospital, such as by providing training, advice or information in respect of the application and use of the Guidance in clinical and/or nursing practice, and whether to trainees or more established staff?

I do not recall this matter.

If so -

- (i) Describe in detail all of the steps that you (or your group) took in order to take the Guidance forward within Craigavon Area Hospital;
- (ii) Identify any other person who worked with you on this task;
- (iii) Describe the steps that you took and when you took them.
- (g) The CMO's correspondence indicated that the A2 sized poster describing the Guidance should be displayed in all units which accommodated children. Describe the steps which you took, if any, to ensure that the Guidance was displayed in all units which accommodated children in Craigavon Area Hospital.

I do not recall if this poster was received by the Director of Nursing. As previously stated all relevant correspondence regarding patient care would have been copied to the appropriate nursing officers for distribution to the relevant ward / department where children were nursed.

If no steps were taken by you in this regard, please explain why no steps were taken?

See comment above at 3 (g)

- (h) Insofar as it is within your knowledge, specify the locations within Craigavon Area Hospital where the poster was displayed.

See comment above at 3 (g)

- (i) The CMO's correspondence indicated that local fluid protocols should be developed to complement the Guidance. Describe the steps which you took, if any, to ensure that such protocols were developed?

I do not recall any information regarding this matter.

If no steps were taken by you in this regard, please explain why no steps were taken?

- (j) Insofar as it is within your knowledge, describe the protocols that were developed, identify who developed any such protocol, when they were developed and for what purpose?

I do not recall any information regarding this matter.

- (k) The CMO's correspondence stated that it would be important to audit compliance with the Guidance and the locally developed protocols. Describe the steps which you took, if any, to ensure that there was an audit of compliance with the Guidance and locally developed protocols?

I do not recall any information regarding this matter.

If no steps were taken by you in this regard, please explain why no steps were taken?

- (l) Insofar as it is within your knowledge, describe the steps that were taken to audit compliance with the Guidance and locally developed protocols, identify who carried out any such audit, the departments/units which were the subject of the audit, when it was carried out and how it was carried out?

I do not recall any information regarding this matter.

- (4) With reference to the Guidance issued by the CMO in March 2002 the Inquiry has been advised by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust on behalf of the legacy Craigavon Area Hospital Group Trust as follows:

"In March 2002 the Medical Director, Director of Nursing and the Chief Executive would have had the key responsibility for dissemination, implementation and monitoring of the guidelines."

- (a) Please state whether you agree that this statement is accurate. If it is inaccurate, explain the respects in which you believe it to be inaccurate.

Yes I agree this statement is accurate.

- (b) If you agree that the statement is accurate, and save as has otherwise been described in the foregoing, provide a detailed account of the steps taken by you, the Medical Director and the Chief Executive in order to,

- (i) Disseminate the Guidance;

The document regarding the guidelines issued by the CMO would have been disseminated in accordance with the Director of Nursing policy as previously stated

- (ii) Implement the Guidance;

I have no recollection of this matter.

- (iii) Monitor the Guidance.

I have no recollection of this matter.

- (c) Provide a detailed account of how you in your capacity as Director of Nursing, the Medical Director and the Chief Executive worked in the exercise of any responsibility to disseminate, implement and monitor the Guidance? For example, did you work as a group, or did you delegate the relevant tasks to others to perform?

I do not recall this matter.

- (5) Have you ever received training in the use or application of the Guidance? If so, state,

I have no recollection regarding this matter.

- (a) Who provided you with training?
- (b) When and on how many occasions have you been provided with such training?
- (c) What form did the training take?
- (d) What did you learn from the training?
- (e) Was the training of an adequate quality or standard for the work that you do?

- (6) Have you ever received written information in relation to the use or application of the Guidance? If so, please provide a copy and state,

I have no recollection regarding this matter.

- (a) Who provided you with the written information?
- (b) When did you receive it?

- (c) What did you learn from the written information?
 - (d) Was the written information which was given to you of an adequate quality or standard for the work that you do?
- (7) After the death of Conor Mitchell in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on the 12 May 2003 (following his treatment in the Craigavon Area Hospital) did you or anyone else establish any process designed to learn lessons in relation to any issue relating to his fluid management? If so,

I was no longer in employment in CAGHT as I retired in September 2002.

- (a) Describe the process which was established.
 - (b) Who conducted it?
 - (c) When was it conducted?
 - (d) What contribution did you make to it?
 - (e) Were you advised of the conclusions that were reached, and if so, what were they?
- (8) Provide any further points and comments that you wish to make, together with any documents, in relation to:

I have no comments to make on either of these points.

- (a) The Guidance on the Prevention of Hyponatraemia.
- (b) Fluid management.

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

Signed:

Bridie Fay

Dated: *9th October 2013.*