

Inquest – Lucy Crawford: Trust Provides Information On Changes To Practice

Further to the information provided in the press release immediately following the Inquest in respect of Lucy Crawford, Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust has advised on the changes to practice introduced at the Erne Hospital since April 2000.

These changes in practice occurred in respect of documentation, patient observation, weighing infants and administration of intravenous (IV) fluids. The changes include:

Documentation

- Nursing staff have received updated training on records and record keeping.
- Nursing records are subject to audit.
- Commenced a programme for the appointment of clinical pharmacists to improve prescribing and recording of medicines.

Observations

- Emergency Admissions Policy is now in place, which specifies minimal observation standards within the first 24 hours of admission and that the type of observation required is detailed.

Weighing

- Young children's weights are now double checked by a second person.

Fluids

- Solution 18 is not used as the first treatment.
- Department of Health wall chart 'Risk of Hyponatraemia' is prominently displayed in treatment rooms where IV fluids are erected.
- Children on IV fluids have electrolytes assessed 4-6 hourly as necessary.
- Medical casenotes include a section for fluid replacement calculations before any child is commenced on IV fluids

The above changes have been led by medical and nursing staff supported by managers at the Erne Hospital.

The Trust is assessing the implications arising from the Inquest. These will be considered with medical and nursing staff and discussed with legal representatives. Furthermore, arrangements are being established to consider key learning points with the Chief medical Officer, Western Health and Social Services Board and members of the Western Health and Social Services Council. The Trust would wish to ensure that any further lessons from this tragedy are shared with the wider HPSS at an early opportunity.

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