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## Doctor slams care given to tot

### Hospital criticised at inquest

By Ashleigh Wallace

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THE level of care given to a 17-month old baby girl who was admitted to the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen was "significantly below an acceptable standard for a hospital in the British Isles", a Coroner's Court was told.

Dr Dewi Evans, a consultant paediatrician from the Department of Child Health in Swansea, criticised the hospital at an inquest today dealing with the death of Lucy Rebecca Crawford.

The Fermanagh youngster died in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children in Belfast on April 14, 2000 after she was transferred from the Erne Hospital.

Lucy, from [REDACTED] was admitted to a children's ward in the Erne Hospital on April 12 after suffering from bouts of vomiting and failure to intake enough fluids.

During her brief stay in the hospital, she was given fluids through an intravenous drip.

However, the youngster suffered a seizure and was taken to the intensive care unit at Erne before she was transferred to the Royal. Dr Evans flew into Northern Ireland to give evidence at the inquest at the request of the solicitors representing the Crawford family.

As well as branding the care given to the Lucy as "below an acceptable standard", Dr Evans also described the documentation on the fluids given to the youngster via the drip as "woefully substandard."

The Welsh doctor told today's hearing in Belfast that if Lucy had been given the right treatment at the Erne, it could have prevented cerebral oedema - or swelling of the brain - which claimed the little girl's life.

At hearing.

**DHSSPS**