Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

From The Chief Medical Officer: Dr Henrietta Campbell CB

Castle Buildings Upper Newtownards Road Belfast BT43SJ

Telephone:

Fax:

E-Mail: henrietta.campbell

13 November 2002

J L Leckey H M Coroner Coroner's Office Courthouse Old Town Hall Building 80 Victoria Street BELFAST BT1 3GL

HYPONATRAEMIA IN CHILDREN RECEIVING INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

Thank you for your letter of 7 November regarding hyponatraemia in children receiving intravenous fluids.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how the health service might work with the Coroner's Office to improve the management of risk. In my letter of 10 May 2002 to Altnagelvin Hospital I did not intend to infer that this Department should be notified about specific cases either by the Coroner or health service. We are currently however giving some thought as to how we might take a more systematic approach to managing risk in clinical care and it would be useful to explore with you how that might be improved.

ou may be aware that Dr Ian Carson has recently joined the Department and is taking the lead on nical negligence. Ian and I would be very happy to discuss these matters with you. I will ask my secretary to make the necessary arrangements.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

HENRIETTA CAMPBELL (Dr)

Dr I Carson

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RF - CORONER

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE