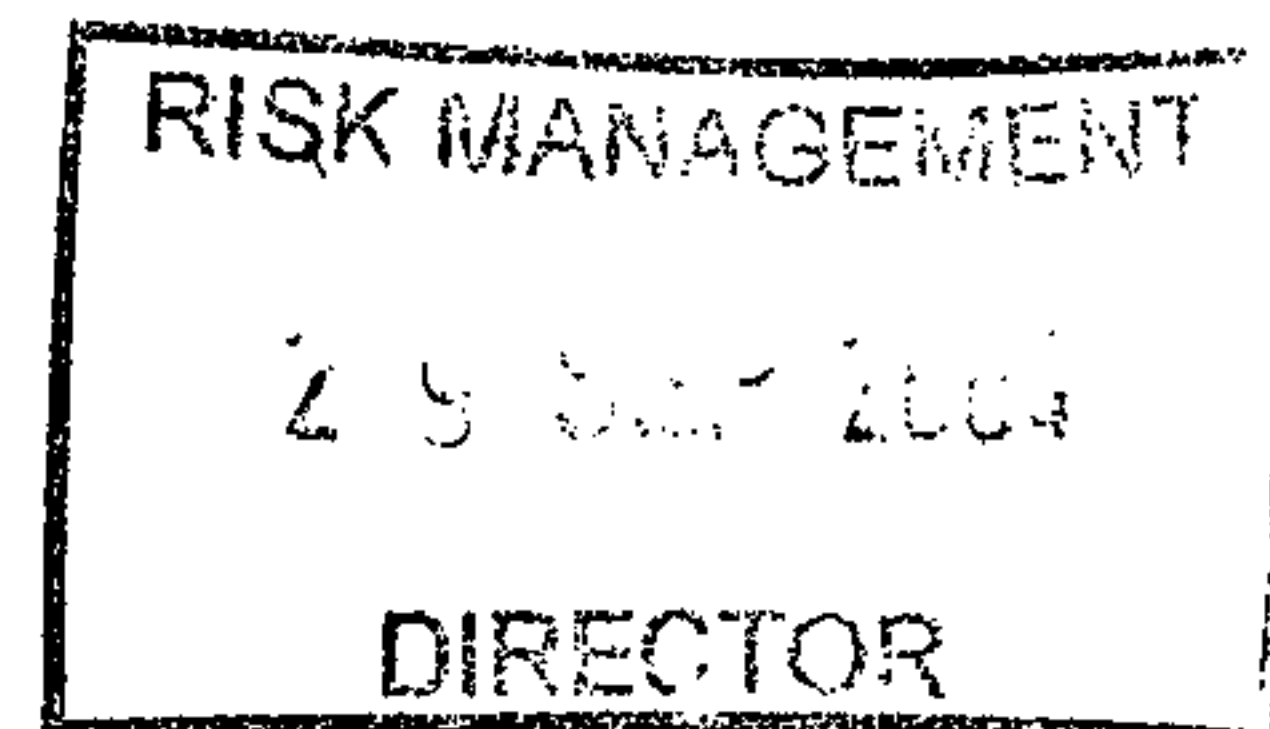


Department of Anaesthetics

27nd September, 04

Dr Therese Brown
Risk Management Director
Altnagelvin Hospital



Re No 18 Solution

Dear Therese

Thanks for copying your correspondence to Jaqui on this.

Regarding your first point, I am unaware of any particular indications for 0.18% saline & 4% glucose or "No 18 Solution".

Addressing your second question, it would be better to not stock No 18 solution routinely in any theatre for these reasons.

Firstly children are still operated on in all theatres at present. Secondly, as you should know, other patients are at risk of dilutional hyponatraemia namely women of child bearing years and the elderly. Finally to repeat my first point, the substance has no real indication anyway.

No 18 is of course not the only IV preparation which I would like to see removed from theatre. 5% glucose carries all the same risks as No 18 solution and it is ironic that the day after No 18 was withdrawn from theatres a child inadvertently received a bolus of 5% glucose in mistake for Hartmann's Solution! Happily there were no adverse results, but the potential is every bit as real.

I hope this clarifies our stance on these fluids.

Sincerely

Dr PC Stewart

Cc Ms J Magrellis, Dr G Nesbitt