



WMcC/HP

5 July 2001

Dr R Fulton
Medical Director
Altnagelvin Health & Social Services Trust
Glenshane Road
Altnagelvin
Londonderry

Dear Raymond

As we agreed, I raised this issue for discussion at the recent CMO/DPH meeting. Dr Campbell indicated that her CMO update was already at the printers and therefore it would be difficult to include anything within it. Knowing this, it was suggested that I would write to each of my Director of Public Health colleagues who would then take responsibility for drawing the issue to the attention of any relevant paediatric settings within their respective Boards.

I enclose a copy of the letter which I have sent to them and I have also taken the liberty of copying to them the articles which you helpfully sent to me. I hope you do not mind my suggestion within the letter that anyone who wanted more detailed discussion might contact you for further information.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dr W W M McConnell
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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42
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To:

Directors of Public Health

Dear

I am writing to you, as agreed at our recent meeting, with further details regarding the unfortunate death of a young girl at Altnagelvin Hospital. It appears that the use of hypotonic saline is still common practice in a number of paediatric units although there has been information around for a few years suggesting this does present risks to a very small number of children in the acute perioperative period. I have enclosed some articles which you might find of benefit in relation to this.

I know from discussions about this issue with Dr Raymond Fulton, Medical Director at Altnagelvin Hospital, that some paediatric settings within Northern Ireland have made appropriate changes but that in others, while the information may be known by anaesthetic staff, there has not necessarily been discussion regarding change between anaesthetists, surgeons and paediatricians.

I felt it might be helpful to draw this issue to your attention in order that each of us can check with those paediatric settings in our respective Boards to see whether modification in practice may be needed. I hope that the articles are helpful to you. If further more specific information is required I am sure that Dr Fulton would be happy to discuss this with anyone who contacted him.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dr W W M McConnell
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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