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Marie Dunne - Commun. Mgr

From: Marie Dunne - Commun. Mgr
Sent: 25 October 2004 11:13
To: Stella Burnside - Chief Executive; Irene Duddy - Dir of Nursing; Geoff Nesbitt - Anaesthetists; Theresa Brown - Risk Management
Subject: FW: Lucy Crawford

See emails below for information.

Stella - see also attached press release which I prepared on Friday. We haven't received any press calls on this to date so the release has not been issued. It has not been shared with the Department - will await your clearance before doing so.

Marie

-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare [mailto:Clare.Baxter@]
Sent: 25 October 2004 11:09
To: Marie Dunne - Commun. Mgr; Jo McGinley (E-mail); 'dympna.curley@royalhospitals.n-i.nhs.uk'; Hall Janet (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Lucy Crawford

FYI - looks like Trevor is going to do an Issue programme on this - am trying to find out more information.

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Birney [mailto:tbirney@]
Sent: 25 October 2004 10:18
To: 'Baxter, Clare'
Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Clare,

understand the Minister was unavailable on Friday.

Could we request an interview with her tonight, re: last Thursday's Insight programme, for our "Issue" programme.

We are completely flexible about the timing of the interview - anytime between lunchtime and 11 pm.

Regards,
Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
UTV

08/11/2004

RF - ALTNAGELVIN

023-092-214

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-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare [mailto:Clare.Baxter@] [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2004 17:53
To: 'Trevor Birney'
Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Hi Trevor, I was speaking to Rob and mentioned that the Minister will not be in Northern Ireland tomorrow but I'll get in touch with him tomorrow.

Clare

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Birney [mailto:tbirney@] [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 October 2004 16:56
To: 'Baxter, Clare'
Cc: rmorrison [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Clare,

As you are aware, we are broadcasting the programme, "When Hospitals Kill" tonight at 9 pm on UTV, which examines the deaths of Adam Strain, Lucy Crawford and Raychel Ferguson.

I've spoken to Rob Morrison, head of news and current affairs here, this afternoon and he's asked me to relay a request for an interview with the Health Minister, tomorrow in studio to gain her reaction to the programme.

Whatever your feelings are on this, relay them to Rob or the newsdesk on 90262000.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
UTV

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-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare [mailto:Clare.Baxter@] [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 October 2004 14:35
To: 'tbirney@' [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Lucy Crawford

Trevor, we're having problems with our emails and haven't received any external emails all day although I think we can still send them out. If you need anything else can you give me a call.

08/11/2004

RF - ALTNAGELVIN

023-092-215

Clare

-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare

Sent: 19 October 2004 09:36

To: 'Trevor Birney'

Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Hi Trevor, sorry about the delay in replying. Here's the response.

The Chief Medical Officer was aware of two deaths at the time the guidance was issued in March 2002, one of whom was Raychel Ferguson. In the interests of confidentiality we do not wish to name the other child other than to confirm that the child died in 1995 and suffered from chronic health problems.

Clare

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Birney [mailto:tbirney@redacted]

Sent: 18 October 2004 09:46

To: Baxter, Clare

Cc: roreilly@redacted

Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Clare,

Thanks again for your help.

However, following the CMO's reply, I've got another question:

On Friday, Dr. Campbell stated:

"At the time of the interview for the UTV Insight programme on Raychel Ferguson on 17 February 2003, I was not aware of any other death from hyponatraemia in a normal, healthy child in Northern Ireland."

Can Dr. Campbell then explain to whom she was referring to when she stated in a letter circulated with the hyponatraemia guidelines on March 25th, 2002.

"Hyponatraemia can be extremely serious and has, in the past few years, been responsible for two deaths among children in Northern Ireland."

Question: Who are the two children the CMO was referring to?

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Trevor Birney

08/11/2004

Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare [mailto:Clare.Baxter@] [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 October 2004 15:19
To: 'tbirney' [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Lucy Crawford

Hi Trevor, here's the response. I was just checking the Insight programme but didn't hear CMO making that actual quote perhaps she said it during the course of the interview and it wasn't used? No matter, here's the line, come back if you need anything.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Henrietta Campbell said: "At the time of the interview for the UTV Insight programme on Raychel Ferguson on 17 February 2003, I was not aware of any other death from hyponatraemia in a normal, healthy child in Northern Ireland."

-----Original Message-----

From: Baxter, Clare
Sent: 13 October 2004 16:30
To: 'Trevor Birney'
Subject: RE: Lucy Crawford

Hi Trevor, here's the response to your question. Anything else let me know.

The Hyponatraemia Working Group was set up by the Chief Medical Officer to develop guidance on the prevention of hyponatraemia and not to consider the case of any specific child. At the time the Working Group was established the CMO was not aware of Lucy Crawford's death.

Clare

-----Original Message-----

From: Trevor Birney [mailto:tbirney@] [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 October 2004 19:14
To: clare.baxter [REDACTED]
Subject: Lucy Crawford

Clare,

Below is the question for the CMO as discussed.

08/11/2004

RF - ALTNAGELVIN

023-092-217

As the Department is aware, we are currently working on an Insight programme examining the death of Lucy Crawford. We intend broadcasting it within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, you can contact me at [REDACTED] if you have any queries.

Question for Dr. Henrietta Campbell:

1. Was the Hyponatraemia Working Group, set up in June 2001, in any way related to the death of Lucy Crawford?

I would appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Trevor Birney
Editor, Current Affairs
Ulster Television

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For support please contact I.T. Department ; [REDACTED] Ext. [REDACTED]

Email IT [REDACTED]

08/11/2004

023-092-218

RF - ALTNAGELVIN



ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITALS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRUST

MEDIA STATEMENT

The staff involved in the care of Raychel Ferguson were deeply saddened by the tragic circumstances of her death

While it is of little comfort to her parents and family, it is important to emphasise that the clinical practices used during Raychel's care, following her operation, were at that time accepted practice in all other area hospitals in Northern Ireland.

Following Raychel's death, Altnagelvin Hospital immediately implemented its critical incident procedure and introduced changes to help ensure nothing similar happens again in the hospital. In addition, the hospital's Medical Director met with the Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland to initiate a review. As a direct result, new guidance from the Chief Medical Officer was issued to all hospitals in Northern Ireland and is now available to the wider medical community.

We again offer our most sincere condolences to Raychel's parents and family on their very sad loss. We feel it is inappropriate for us to make further comment on this sad death, or on any other deaths in other hospitals that may, or may not, be related to the practices to which we refer.

ENDS

Date

Provided by Communications Department, phone [REDACTED]

023-092-219

RF - ALTNAGELVIN

Notes to editors:

1. Altnagelvin's Critical Incident Procedure has been in place since 1998. Its purpose is to review incidents or events resulting in unexplained deaths, or incidents with the potential to have resulted in serious damage, injury or death of a patient. All staff are required to formally notify such incidents and the procedure is implemented as a matter of urgency on receipt of that notification. As part of the process, the care provided will be critically reviewed and action taken as required to amend practice so as to prevent, or at least minimise, similar incidents occurring in the future.

2. The sequence of events following the sad death of Raychel Ferguson is as follows:
 - Date of Raychel's death: 9/6/2001
 - Date potential cause of death identified: 10/6/2001
 - Critical incident meeting held: 12/6/2001
 - Letter of condolence sent to family 15/6/001
 - Notification to Public Health (Dr. McConnell) Mid-June 2001
 - Notification to other Medical Directors 18/6/2001
 - CMO notified by Altnagelvin Medical Director 22/6/2001
 - Altnagelvin met with Western Area Council 20/7/04 *Enon md*
 - Follow up with CMO by Altnagelvin Chief Exec 26/7/01
 - Meeting with family to discuss cause of death 3/9/2001
 - Guidance on hyponatraemia issued by DHSSPS March 2002
 - Further guidance relating to adults issued June 2003