

**Dr G A Nesbitt
Clinical Director
Anaesthetic Department
Altnagelvin Hospital**

3rd July 2001

**Mr Paul Bateson
Clinical Director
Surgical Directorate**

Re: Fluid management in children

Raymond.
Dear Paul,

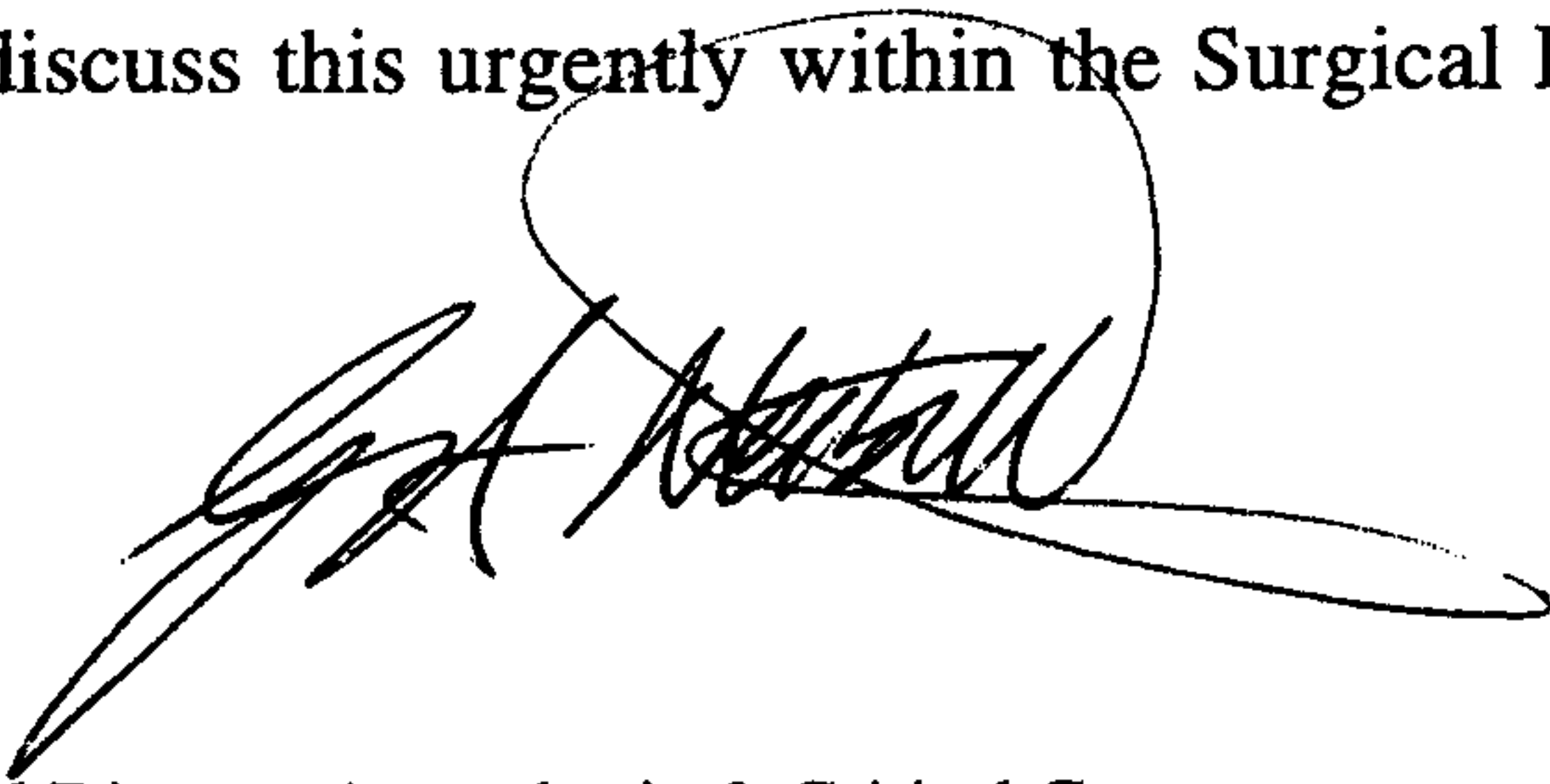
Following the recent tragic death of a child apparently due to hyponatraemia, I have asked my Anaesthetic Colleagues to prescribe Hartman's solution instead of No.18 solution. This followed reading several papers outlining the hazards associated with the use of hyponatraemic fluids in children who retain fluid due to ADH and Vasopressin release. Children's Hospital no longer use No.18 solution, and most other units are trying to change to Normal Saline or Hartman's.

The problem in the Children's ward seemed to be that even if Hartman's was prescribed, it was changed to No.18 by default. I therefore asked Sister Miller to change this policy so that, for surgical children, the default solution became Hartman's. With agreement, it may also be possible for the paediatricians to undertake the fluid management of surgical children. Obviously this impacts on surgical care and needs your support.

Some clinicians evidently feel that No.18 solution is the fluid they wish to prescribe, and have disagreed with the regime suggested. Obviously clinical judgement is important, and I am sure that there is a place for No.18 solution, but I am concerned that my attempt to put in place a safe policy has met with resistance so quickly.

Perhaps you could discuss this urgently within the Surgical Directorate so that a regime can be agreed.

Yours sincerely,



G A Nesbitt Clinical Director Anaesthesia & Critical Care

cc	Dr Raymond Fulton	Medical Director ✓
	Teresa Brown	Risk Management Co-ordinator
	Sister Miller	Ward 6