

21 June, 2001

All Consultant Paediatricians & Staff Grades
Erne Hospital
ENNISKILLEN
Co Fermanagh

Dear Colleague

At a Medical Directors meeting in the last few days, I was made aware of a recent death in paediatrics. The case appeared to involve the development of severe hyponatraemia leading to seizure activity and coning. The Medical Directors present were able to report a number of near misses round the province and we have been made aware of an article in the BMJ (see enclosure). It also appears that the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children has changed its guidelines and no longer uses No 18 solution post surgery or for rehydration in paediatric medicine, and so I would therefore ask that consideration is given to review our practice to using normal saline in these circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Dr J Kelly
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

cc Dr Halahakoon, Consultant Paediatrician
Dr O'Donohoe, Consultant Paediatrician
[REDACTED] Consultant Paediatrician
[REDACTED] Staff Grade, A & E Department, TCH
Dr Ashgar, Staff Grade Paediatrician, Erne Hospital