

Young, Christine

From: Gowdy, Clive
Sent: 28 January 2005 17:52
To: McCarthy, Miriam; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Carson, Ian; Hamilton, Andrew
Cc: Browne, Andrew; Sullivan, Dean
Subject: RE: Urgent: Hyponatraemia line to take

Miriam,

I agree that we should not seek to add to the Answer. The press response should be enough if there is any interest.

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

From: McCarthy, Miriam
Sent: 28 January 2005 17:42
To: Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Carson, Ian; Hamilton, Andrew; Gowdy, Clive
Cc: Browne, Andrew; Sullivan, Dean
Subject: Urgent: Hyponatraemia line to take
Importance: High

Dear All,

Please find attached lines to take on hyponatraemia related deaths 1984-2003.

In addition to providing a line to take I have expored with Parliamentary Section (NIO) the scope for providing additional information to Iris Robinson that would be published as part of the Public Record. Parliamentary Section have advised me of two potential options: (i) a PQ reply pursuant to the previous answer, or (ii) a Ministerial Written Statement. They have advised that both of these options would be extremely unusual and would recommend therefore that neither should be used on this occasion. On this basis I do not believe that the Department should seek to put additional information on the Public Record, but rather we should respond to any press queries as and when they arise.

Miriam

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Browne, Andrew

From: McCarthy, Miriam
Sent: 28 January 2005 17:50
To: Maguire, Philip; Baxter, Clare; Edgar, Leona
Cc: Gowdy, Clive; Hamilton, Andrew; Carson, Ian; Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Sullivan, Dean;
Browne, Andrew
Subject: FW: Urgent: Hyponatraemia line to take

Importance: High

Dear all,

Please find attached line to take which has been cleared by Secretary

Miriam

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From: McCarthy, Miriam
Sent: 28 January 2005 17:42
To: Campbell, Dr Henrietta; Carson, Ian; Hamilton, Andrew; Gowdy, Clive
Cc: Browne, Andrew; Sullivan, Dean
Subject: Urgent: Hyponatraemia line to take
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Miriam



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Lines to Take: Hyponatraemia-related deaths 1984-2003

- There are approximately 14,500 deaths of adults and children in Northern Ireland each year.
- Data from death certification over the 20-year period 1984-2003 suggest a total of 6 people of all ages have died as a direct result of hyponatraemia.
- A further 55 deaths have occurred in which hyponatraemia was documented as a contributory factor, but not the primary cause of death.
- Hyponatraemia (a low sodium level) is a common electrolyte abnormality in hospitalised patients. Many sick patients, especially elderly people on drug therapies known to predispose to electrolyte problems, may develop hyponatraemia.
- Hyponatraemia may be an associated factor in a patient's death, but is rarely the primary cause of death.
- Guidance was issued in 2002 on the prevention of hyponatraemia in children. Further guidance was issued by CREST on the prevention and management of hyponatraemia in adults.