

**Dr G A Nesbitt
Medical director
Altnagelvin Hospital**

28th May 2002

Dr Brian McCord
Consultant Paediatrician
Ward 6
Altnagelvin Hospital

Re: Consensus statement on IV fluid therapy in Paediatrics

Dear Brian,

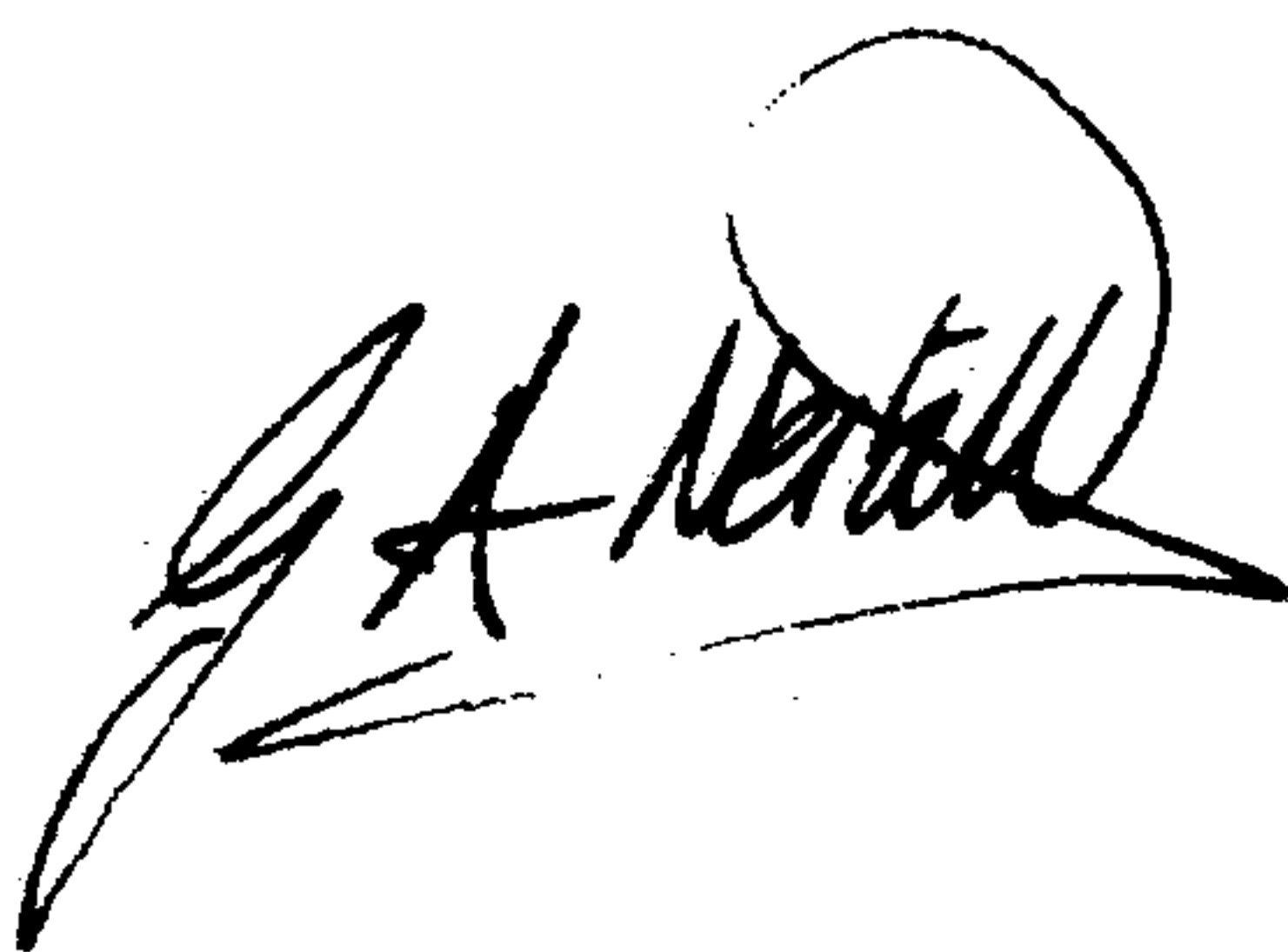
Thanks for asking me to look over the document. I can only agree with the content which follows the guidelines issued from the Department of Health and which additionally suggests the use of 0.45% Saline in 2.5% Dextrose. This I believe is the ideal solution and one, which is increasingly used elsewhere.

Could you clarify if this consensus statement will be incorporated into a ward protocol, which should be identified as belonging to Altnagelvin Hospital and which would be dated and signed?

Clearly you suggest that the management of fluid prescription and the responsibility for requesting laboratory investigations rests with individual clinicians. It might be useful we had such a protocol because then nursing staff could use it as a gentle reminder to clinicians to order and, more importantly, look at the lab results.

As you know, I have already written to Medical staff on the subject of the recent guidelines and the need to re-evaluate the need for intravenous fluids, particularly in children. The production of a protocol at ward level would reinforce this and I am confident that our surgical colleagues would find such a document helpful. (Perhaps we could run a copy by them, as they say.)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G A Nesbitt', with a large circular flourish above the name.

G A Nesbitt Medical Director