

DRAFT STATEMENT

In the light of the rare circumstances encountered in the Adam Strain case, and having regard to the information contained in the paper by Arieff et al (BMJ 1992) and additionally having regard to information which has recently come to notice that perhaps there may have been nine other cases in the United Kingdom involving hyponatraemia which led to death in patients undergoing renal transplantation, the Royal Hospitals Trust wish to make it known that:

in future all patients undergoing major paediatric surgery who have a potential for electrolyte imbalance will be carefully monitored according to their clinical needs, and where necessary, intensive monitoring of their electrolyte values will be undertaken. Furthermore, the now known complications of hyponatraemia in some of these cases will continue to be assessed in each patient, and all anaesthetic staff will be made aware of these particular phenomena and advised to act appropriately.

The Trust will continue to use its best endeavours to ensure that operating theatres are afforded access to full laboratory facilities to achieve timely receipt of reports on full blood picture and electrolyte values thereby assisting rapid anaesthetic intervention when indicated.

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