

Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

From The Chief Medical Officer:
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Dr G A Nesbitt
Medical Director
Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust
Altnagelvin Area Hospital
Glenshane Road
LONDONDERRY
BT47 6SB

10 May 2002

Geoff

Dear Dr Nesbitt

HYPONATRAEMIA IN CHILDREN RECEIVING INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS

Thank you for your letter of 1 May regarding guidelines for the prevention of hyponatraemia in children receiving intravenous fluids.

Your letter referred to a Coroner's case five years ago in which the cause of death of a child was reported to be due to hyponatraemia. This Department was not made aware of the case at the time either by the Royal Victoria Hospital or the Coroner. We only became aware of that particular case when we began the work of developing guidelines following the death at Altnagelvin.

I would like to thank the staff at Altnagelvin for alerting me to the need for guidelines and for all the assistance which was given to their development.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Henrietta

HENRIETTA CAMPBELL (Dr)

RF - PSNI

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