



Business Services  
Organisation

## Directorate of Legal Services

— PRACTITIONERS IN LAW TO THE  
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SECTOR —

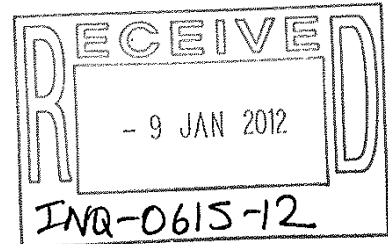
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ  
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:  
BPC-0058-11

Our Ref:  
HYP B4/01

Date:  
06.01.2012

Mr Brian Cullen  
Solicitor to the Inquiry  
Arthur House  
41 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
BT1 4GB



Dear Sir,

### RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS

I refer to the above and your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

I understand that the Trust has discussed this issue with Dr Savage and I am instructed as follows: -

Dr Savage advises that his entry "XRays – Get all old XRays" (058-002-002) indicates to him that he expected a pre-operative chest x-ray to be performed. The tick after "XRays" lead him to believe the CXR was ordered or performed however this was his belief from memory and he could not be certain given the time that has elapsed. Dr Savage believes that the entry "?CXR" crossed-out or ticked on 057-016-023 also may support this belief.

Neither Dr. Cartmill nor Dr O'Neill refer to a chest x-ray in their pre-operative clinical notes. There is an x-ray request form dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 1995 completed by Dr. O'Neill in the medical records. X-ray request forms are usually forwarded to the Radiology Department although out of hours such requests may be made by telephone and the radiographer collects the form at the time of the X-ray. The form not having been completed by a radiographer is suggestive of the x-ray not having been performed. The nursing records make no reference to a chest x-ray which would be unusual if one was performed. There is no note by any member of medical or nursing staff of the result of a chest x-ray. No x-rays are believed to be missing from the records. The conclusion by the Trust was and is that it is unlikely that a pre-operative chest x-ray was performed.

I trust that this clarifies matters.

Yours faithfully,

*Providing Support to Health and Social Care*



JBolton

Joanna Bolton

Solicitor Consultant

Email: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]