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Your Ref:
HW-0076-12

Our Ref:
HYP B04/2

Date:
9th November 2012

Ms H Win
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry
Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB



Dear Madam

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS- CLAIRE
ROBERTS**

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 23rd October 2012, referenced as above.

It is the Trust's understanding that Intravenous medications and controlled drugs have always been checked by two people and this remains the case today.

In the case of oral, topical or PR medications some, but not all, are single checked. I am instructed that the RBHSC would have moved to this approach in the mid-1990s, but the Trust cannot be sure of the exact date. This practice is endorsed by the NMC Code, the 'Guidance for Administration of Medicines and Scope of Professional Practice' which was published in 1992 by the former UKCC and updated by its successor, the NMC, in 2004.

The practice of single checking drugs would have been agreed for nurses after their competence had been assessed. It was the responsibility of each individual nurse to work within their own scope of practice, in this area.

The person or persons responsible for the calculation of drug dosages are the prescriber and the person or persons administering the drug.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



The Trust's Medicines Code is attached for information along with the NMC Standards for Medicine Management.

This completes my client's response to your afore-mentioned letter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'ACrawford', written in a cursive style.

Angela Crawford
Solicitor