



Business Services
Organisation

Directorate of Legal Services

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

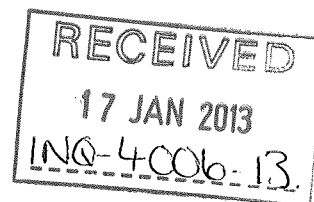
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:
AD-0483-12

Our Ref:
HYPW50/01

Date:
17th January 2013

Mrs A Dillon
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- RAYCHEL FERGUSON CLINICAL

I refer to the above and your letter dated 7th January 2013. I am instructed as follows: -

- 1) Hypertonic saline is defined as any sodium chloride product greater than 0.9%. This would include:
 - Sodium Chloride 1.8% polyfusor 500ml
 - Sodium Chloride 2.7% polyfusor 500ml
 - Sodium Chloride 5% polyfusor 500ml

The Trust has confirmed that the pharmacy department routinely stocked and supplied the following during the period 1/4/01 – 31/7/01:

- Sodium Chloride 1.8% polyfusor 500ml
- Sodium Chloride 5% polyfusor 500ml

- 2) There are no records of any of the above hypertonic saline solutions having been supplied to the paediatric ward between 1/1/01 and 31/12/01.
- 3) A clinician would have to prescribe the hypertonic saline on a prescription for the patient. If it was not readily available on the ward the nurse would order the product from pharmacy, by supplying a written requisition from the appropriate order book signed by an authorised nurse.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



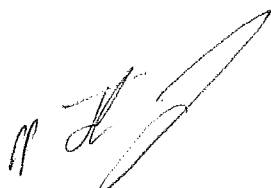
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- 4) In June 2001 Mannitol was routinely stocked in Altnagelvin Hospital strengths included:
- o 10% Intravenous Infusion 500ml
 - o 20% Intravenous Infusion 500ml
- 5) The Trust is not able to determine if Mannitol was kept as a stock item on the paediatric ward. However there is a record of the ward having been supplied both of the above strengths of Mannitol between the 1/4/01 and 31/7/01.
- 6) A clinician would have to prescribe the Mannitol on a prescription for the patient. If it was not readily available on the ward the nurse would order the product from pharmacy, by supplying a written requisition from the appropriate order book signed by an authorised nurse.
- 7) Internet access would have been available in the pharmacy department.
Paediatric clinicians would have to advise on access to the internet at ward level. – information awaited.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Bolton
Solicitor Consultant