

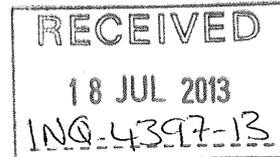
2 Franklin Street, Belfast, BT2 8DQ  
DX 2842 NR Belfast 3

Your Ref:  
BMCL-0082-13

Our Ref:  
HYP B04/05

Date:  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

Mr B McLoughlin  
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry  
Arthur House  
41 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
BT1 4GB



Dear Sir,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO HYPONATRAEMIA RELATED DEATHS – RAYCHEL FERGUSON**

I refer to the above matter and to your letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

I am instructed by the Belfast Trust that NCEPOD carry out Medical Governance themed audits into specific topics, including one into peri-operative care which took place in 2001. All data submitted to NCEPOD is anonymised and used for audit purposes only. NCEPOD does not have a role in investigating individual cases, rather they seek to audit performance based on identified cases as outlined in their inclusion criteria for any particular audit and make recommendations for future practice.

At this time, anonymised data was submitted directly by consultants who were identified by NCEPOD as suitable for inclusion in the audit. No record of data submitted would have (or should have been) kept in the patient record given the confidential nature of the enquiry. For this reason the Belfast Trust is unable to confirm whether any report regarding the death of Raychel Ferguson would have been made to NCEPOD.

The Trust now has, under NCEPOD's request, a NCEPOD Ambassador who plays a role in engaging clinicians in submitting audit forms for identified cases to any particular inquiry. However the general process of NCEPOD communicating directly with the clinician in a confidential manner remains the same and this data is then used in audit to make recommendations in respect of future practice.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Bolton  
Solicitor Consultant

*Providing Support to Health and Social Care*

