

**PQ 179/05**

**DATE FOR ANSWER:**

**TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2005**

**Iris Robinson (Strangford):** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, how many dilutional hyponatraemia-related deaths occurred in the Province in each of the last 20 years. **(210022)**

**ANGELA SMITH**

The attached table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland for each year between 1984 and 2003, where

- (i) the underlying cause of death was 'hyponatraemia'<sup>1</sup> or 'Fluid overload'<sup>2</sup>; or
- (ii) an associated/ secondary cause of death was 'hyponatraemia'<sup>1</sup> or 'Fluid overload'<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code E87.1 for years 2001-2003 and Ninth Revision code 276.1 for years 1984-2000.

<sup>2</sup> International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code E87.7 for years 2001-2003 and Ninth Revision code 276.6 for years 1984-2000.

Table: Number of registered deaths by year in Northern Ireland where the primary or an associated/secondary cause of death was 'hyponatraemia' or 'fluid overload'

Registration Year	Deaths where the primary cause of death was 'hyponatraemia' or 'fluid overload'	Deaths where an associated/secondary cause of death was 'hyponatraemia' or 'fluid overload'
1984	0	0
1985	0	0
1986	0	1
1987	0	1
1988	1	1
1989	0	3
1990	1	1
1991	0	2
1992	0	2
1993	1	2
1994	0	0
1995	0	3
1996	1	4
1997	0	2
1998	0	2
1999	0	8
2000	0	5
2001	0	0
2002	1	9
2003	1	9

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND NOTE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO: PQ 179/05**

1. Hyponatraemia is potentially extremely serious, a rapid fall in sodium leading to cerebral oedema, seizures and death. Warning signs of hyponatraemia may be non-specific and include nausea, malaise and headache. Hyponatraemia most often reflects failure to excrete water. Stress, pain and nausea are all potent stimulators of anti-diuretic hormone (ADH), which inhibits water excretion. Complications of hyponatraemia most often occur due to the administration of excess or inappropriate fluid to a sick child, usually intravenously.
2. Information on "hyponatraemia" and "fluid overload" deaths has been provided by Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA.
3. The figures presented are for deaths registered each year as opposed to those occurring each year.
4. Since 2001, in line with the rest of the UK, the tenth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD10) is used to classify cause of death. The codes used for "hyponatraemia" and "fluid overload" deaths are E87.1 and E87.7 respectively. In the period 1979 to 2000 the ninth revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (ICD9) was used to classify cause of death. The ICD9 codes used for "hyponatraemia" and "fluid overload" deaths were 276.1 and 276.6.
5. Data for the 2004 registration year are still being finalized and will not be available until Spring 2005.

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