

NEW GUIDANCE ON HYPONATRAEMIA

In April 2007, the Department cascaded Safety Alert 22 from the National Patient Safety Agency on reducing the risk of Hyponatraemia when administering intravenous infusions to children (HSC (SQS) 20/2007).

To assist with the recommendations outlined in the Safety Alert, a number of resource materials were also developed by the NPSA and these were brought to the attention of relevant HSC Trusts and independents sector providers.

At that time, the Regional Paediatric Fluid Therapy Working Group and the NI Medicines Governance Team were asked by the Department to work collaboratively to produce an intravenous fluid clinical guideline in accordance with NPSA guidance. This was produced and disseminated as an addendum to the April circular on 16 October http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_20-07_-_addendum.pdf. The Wallchart can be accessed on the Department's website at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_20-07_wallchart.pdf. Laminated versions will shortly be made available by the NI Medical & Dental Training Agency.

Presently Trusts are submitting their completed audit templates to the Department to confirm that the recommended actions have been fully implemented.