

Department of

Health, Social Services and Public Safety

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AN ROINN

Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

MÄNNYSTRIF O

Poustie, Resydènter Heisin an Fowk Siccar

From: The Chief Pharmaceutical Officer Dr Norman Morrow FPS Room D4.7, Castle Buildings Upper Newtownards Road Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Tel:

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Your Ref: Our Ref:

Date: 16 April 2008

Professor Sean Gorman Head of School of Pharmacy Queen's University of Belfast University Road BELFAST BT7 1NN

Dear Sean,

RE: REDUCING THE RISK OF HYPONATRAEMIA WHEN ADMINISTERING INTRAVENOUS INFUSIONS TO CHILDREN

We spoke some time ago in respect of teaching in the undergraduate pharmacy curriculum allied to intravenous fluid therapy.

The Department has been working with a number of stakeholders to reduce the risk of hyponatraemia when administering paediatric fluid therapy to children.

In this regard I would be grateful if you would consider inclusion of paediatric fluid therapy with particular relevance to the prevention and management of hyponatraemia in the undergraduate curriculum.

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DHSSPS 330-131-001

For ease of reference I attach two recent circulars issued by the Department on this topic, which draw on the National Patient Safety Agency's – *Patient Safety Alert 22*. Clearly this is an important safety issue and therefore particularly relevant to clinical practitioners.

Yours sincerely

DR NORMAN C MORROW Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

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DHSSPS 330-131-002