



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

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an Fowk Siccar

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Date 16 May 2008

Dr Julian R Johnston
Chairman, Standards & Guidelines Committee
Belfast HSC Trust
Via e-mail

Dear Dr Johnston

Thank you for your recent email seeking clarification on applying the 2003 and 2007 wall charts on preventing and managing hyponatraemia.

As you have stated the 2007 wall chart (paediatric parenteral fluid therapy – (1 month to 16 years)) replaces the 2002 wall chart (any child receiving prescribed fluids is at risk of hyponatraemia). The main focus of the 2007 wall chart is the assessment and preventative measures to be taken to minimise hyponatraemia occurring in children.

On the other hand, the 2003 wall chart produced by CREST (hyponatraemia – a disorder of water balance which is potentially fatal) was accompanied by guidance on the *Management of Hyponatraemia in Adults* and focuses on the treatment of hyponatraemia once this occurs in the patient.

It is acknowledged, however, that since both wall charts refer to children, some confusion may arise.

I have therefore asked GAIN to review the CREST guidelines and wall chart urgently and, in doing so, will ask that the Review approach you directly to take on board the concerns you have raised.

I have also asked GAIN to advise on any remedial action which should be taken and upon receipt, the Department will advise the service accordingly.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Maura Briscoe
Director, Safety, Quality & Standards

cc. Heather Steen

Peter Crean

Ian Young

Jarlath McAloon

Clodagh Loughrey

Brian Mullan

Brian McCloskey

CREST membership team: Clive Russell; Tom Trinick; Kieran Fitzpatrick, Peter Flanagan;

Gary McVeigh