

**Finlay, Tricia**

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**From:** Donnelly, Martin  
**Sent:** 22 May 2009 13:35  
**To:** Mooney, Jennifer  
**Cc:** Woods, Paddy  
**Subject:** RE: Queries from SQS directorate

Jennifer

Dr Woods wrote to Dr McMurray (NIMDTA) and Prof Johnston (QUB) on 28 March 2009



hyponatr.pdf

Dr McMurray has replied agreeing:

Induction for foundation year one doctors should emphasise the importance of fluid management in all age groups, highlighting the need to seek senior advice in the case of those aged 13-15 years of age. Induction should also stress the requirement to complete the mandatory learning module on hyponatraemia during the first placement of the Foundation programme.

This allows some leeway but still requires completion within 4 months. As suggested by Angela Carragher NIMDTA, Educational Supervisors could still check after 1 month to remind those who had failed to complete.

I advise that Action points 4-6 are ongoing and a formal response has been requested by 30 June 2009.

Martin

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**From:** Mooney, Jennifer  
**Sent:** 21 May 2009 08:51  
**To:** Donnelly, Martin  
**Subject:** FW: Queries from SQS directorate

Martin

Further to Paddy's email below, I've attached an email regarding training in administration of IV fluids - which you were copied into erroneously to begin with!

Thanks

Jennifer << Message: FW: RQIA Review into Application of NPSA Safety Alert 22: Reducing the Risk of Hyponatraemia when Administering Intravenous Fluids to Children >>

Jennifer Mooney  
Safety & Quality Unit  
Safety, Quality & Standards Directorate  
Dept of Health, Social Services & Public Safety NI  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Woods, Paddy

**Sent:** 21 May 2009 08:32  
**To:** Livingstone, Jim; Scullion, Sean; Browne, Andrew; Campbell, Karen  
**Cc:** Perkins, Roisin; Lawson, Elaine; Adams, James; Donnelly, Martin; Mooney, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Queries from SQS directorate

Unfortunately, with the recent personnel changes within CMO group and other events, it has proven impossible for me to respond to ad hoc queries from SQS in a timely fashion. Martin Donnelly has kindly agreed to accept all queries that would previously have been directed to myself.

I will try to advise martin of those currently outstanding but would be grateful if the originators could do likewise to avoid omission.

Many thanks

Paddy

*Dr P Woods*  
*Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer*  
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From the Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Dr E Mitchell



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AN ROINN

Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

MINISTRE O

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 26 March 2009

## **PRESCRIBING FLUIDS IN CHILDREN UNTIL THEIR 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

Further to on-going work on prescribing parenteral fluids and the prevention of hyponatraemia, I am writing to you to seek your assistance in targeting medical undergraduates and junior doctors. I want to thank you for the important contribution you have made already in this area. I am of course conscious of growing and productive collaboration between undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in assuring the quality and continued development of our medical graduates.

Recent discussions with colleagues from the service clarified that the GAIN guidelines on hyponatraemia/fluid prescribing in adults apply to patients aged 16 years and over. It has also been confirmed that the paediatric guidelines developed by the group chaired by Dr McAloon are intended for patients aged up to the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The NI paediatric guidelines on fluid prescribing in children up to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday is available in the form of a wall chart at [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc\\_sqsd\\_20-07\\_wallchart.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_sqsd_20-07_wallchart.pdf)

GAIN has been asked to issue the under 16 year guidelines and the new adult guidelines together and to ensure that the age cut off is clarified in both guidelines.

Clearly there is a need for medical staff in adult wards to be aware of fluid prescribing guidance for both children (up to 16<sup>th</sup> birthday) and adults; some children aged 13-15 are admitted to adults wards and clinical need means that this will continue to be the case. It is important therefore that these medical staff are aware of the paediatric as well as adult guidance and understand the principle of junior doctors seeking senior advice when prescribing fluids for any age group, particularly for the under 16 years group.

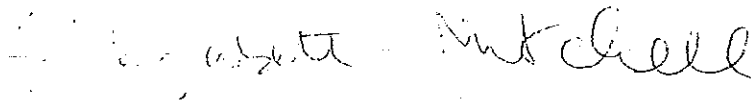
Given your respective roles in undergraduate and postgraduate education, I would ask you to ensure that:

- undergraduate medical training includes fluid prescribing guidance for children as well as adults, and emphasises the need to seek senior advice when prescribing fluids for all age groups but particularly for the under 16 year age group;
- in the work shadowing period, medical undergraduates are exposed to issues of fluid prescribing; and
- induction for foundation year one doctors includes prescribing fluids for all age groups and in particular for 13-15 year olds, emphasising the need to seek senior advice.

I would be grateful if you would advise me of progress in these three areas by 30 June 2009.

Many thanks for your assistance in this area.

Yours sincerely



**DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL**  
Acting Chief Medical Officer