

MEMO



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

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

From: Maura Briscoe

Date: 15 May 2008

To: Professor Tom Trinick
Nicola Porter

cc: Professor Robin Davidson
Dr David Stewart
Dr C Harper
Andrew Browne
Dr H Neagle
Karen Campbell
George Russell

Dear Tom

RE: HYPONATRAEMIA GUIDELINES AND WALL CHART

As a matter of urgency, I would ask that GAIN review the 2003 CREST guideline "The Management of Hyponatraemia in Adults" and accompanying wall chart "Hyponatraemia – A disorder of water balance which is potentially fatal".

You will note from the attached correspondence that there are concerns that there may be some confusion between applying the 2003 wall chart and the 2007 wall chart (the latter issued specifically to cover children up to 16 years). I propose responding to Dr Johnston about the concerns he has raised and to advise him of my request to GAIN.

In conducting a review, it is suggested that you contact members of the original CREST group, Dr Johnston and other relevant practitioners and advise, particularly in relation to:

- (i) whether the CREST guideline and wall chart should be written in the context of prevention and/or management of the condition;
- (ii) whether the 2003 wall chart should be more clear about the age group for which it is intended, given that paediatric fluid therapy chart is to age 16 years; and/or
- (iii) whether the CREST guideline should be redrafted to complement the paediatric 2007 guidance- with perhaps a similar title *parenteral fluid therapy in adults*, with clear recognition that it covers from age 17 onwards
- (iv) whether in the interim, the Department should advise Trusts to withdraw the 2003 guideline and/or wall chart



I would be grateful if you could provide me with a response on the above (particularly paragraph (iii)) by **2 June**.

I would be happy to discuss this by phone as I know you, Tom, have other commitments over the next few months.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Maura Briscoe
Director, Safety, Quality & Standards

Note – I have received Dr Loughrey's consent to forward her e-mail