



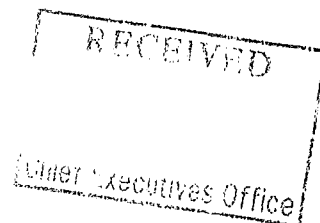
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Our Ref: DB/BB

Date: 27 June 2007

Mrs Elaine Way
Chief Executive
Western Health & Social Care Trust
c/o MDEC
Altnagelvin Area Hospital,
LONDONDERRY



Dear Mrs ~~Way~~ *Elaine,*

**Re: NPSA Patient Safety Alert 22
Reducing the Risk of Hyponatraemia when administering Intravenous
Infusions to Children**

You will have received correspondence dated 27 April 2007 from the DHSSPS in relation to the above.

The purpose of this letter is to ask that you provide to the Board:

- A copy of the Action Plan for implementation of the NPSA Alert 22 by 2 July 2007;
- Confirmation that actions are completed by 30 September 2007 together with a copy of the completed audit template, inclusive of the Chief Executive Officer's endorsement confirming that the Trust has undertaken an internal audit in line with the audit tool; and
- Recommended actions have been fully implemented by 31 October 2007.

The Board will also include this item on performance management meetings with the Trust's Senior Executive Team.

I trust this approach is acceptable.

Yours sincerely

Dominic
Dominic Burke
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

c.c. Dr Bill Mc Connell
Glynis Henry
Joe Brogan
Linus Mc Laughlin
Brigid Bergin
Dorothy Hutchinson

RECEIVED

11 JUL 2007

15 Gransha Park, Clooney Road, Londonderry, N. Ireland BT47 6FN.
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax. No. [REDACTED]
DLS

345-0021-001



Western Health and Social Care Trust

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

3rd August 2007

Dominic Burke
Chief Executive
WH&SSB
15 Gransha Park
Clooney Road
Londonderry
BT47 6FN

Dear Mr Burke,

RE: NPSA Patient Safety Alert 22
Reducing the Risk of Hyponatraemia when administering intravenous infusions to Children

I refer to your letter dated 27 June 2007 seeking clarification on progress against the NPSA Patient Safety Alert 22.

I have detailed below action taken to date and the current position within the Western Trust in relation to the NPSA Alert and to the Regional Guidance devised by the Regional Fluid Management Group whose recommendations apply more directly within Northern Ireland.

Recommendation 1

- Altnagelvin Hospital has been compliant with the regional guidance since August 2006.
- Erne Hospital are currently compliant with the regional guidance.
- Sodium Chloride 0.18% has not been prescribed for Paediatrics since 2001 and it was removed from use in all areas of Altnagelvin Hospital in 2005.
- The Medicines Governance Pharmacist has been asked to ensure that it has been removed from stock in all areas of the Trust that treat children.

Action: Mr D Connolly

- On the basis of evidence provided by Dr P Stewart, Consultant Anaesthetist CMT have approved a fluid maintenance policy for surgical children who are particularly at risk of hyponatraemia based on the use of Hartman's Solution with 3% glucose.
- This new policy has been tested for feasibility in Altnagelvin and will be rolled out across the Trust within 3 months.

Action: Dr P Stewart

Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry BT8 2 6SB
Telephone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

Recommendation 2

- The Regional Guidelines will be disseminated to all clinical areas treating paediatric patients.

Action: Mrs T Brown

Recommendation 3

- There has been ongoing training provided to clinical staff on the Altnagelvin site on fluid management.
- Dr Anne Kilgallen, Medical Director has recently written to all new medical staff on the Altnagelvin site asking them to confirm that they have completed the BMJ e-learning module.
- As noted above we are actively pursuing links with the Erne site with a view to establishing their progress in this area and harmonising their systems with those in place in Altnagelvin.

Action: Dr P Stewart ✓

Recommendation 4

- Within Altnagelvin there is a multi-professional fluid management group whose purpose is to ensure best practice in Paediatric fluids prescription. Since 2003 clinicians have used a standardised fluids prescription sheet for all peri-operative children; a group identified as being at risk from hyponatraemia. As noted above the clinicians in Erne Hospital are keen to use this prescription and it will be implemented in relevant clinical areas throughout the Trust.

Action: Dr P Stewart

- We are currently endeavouring to introduce a standardised prescription sheet for children under the care of the Paediatricians.
- An agreed prescription is currently in use on the Erne site.
- On the Altnagelvin site the I.V fluid paediatric prescription sheet was reviewed and amended in July 2007. The amended sheet will be recommended for use in all clinical areas treating paediatric patients.
- A Fluid Management Group will be convened to agree a single prescription sheet and to consider how this should be disseminated across the Trust.

Recommendation 5

Action: Fluid Mgt Group

- The Trust promotes the reporting of clinical incidents. The Assistant Director of Healthcare, Women & Children's Directorate will be asked to remind all staff treating children to report incidents of hospital acquired hyponatraemia via local Risk Management reporting systems.

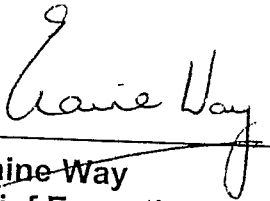
Action: Mrs K Mc Daid

Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry BT82 6SB
Telephone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]

Reducing the risk of hyponatraemia is an important safety issue, which the Trust takes seriously. I will as requested provide you with an update against the actions outlined by 30th September 2007.

If you seek any further clarification regarding the action plan please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elaine Way', written over a horizontal line.

Elaine Way
Chief Executive

Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry BT82 6SB
Telephone [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]