



Western Health
and Social Care Trust

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24th June 2008

Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer
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Dear Michael,

I write in connection with the guidance for the management of paediatric fluids, in particular the avoidance of hyponatraemia and the associated Alert 22 from NPSA.

I was concerned that following a RQIA review of the Western Trust specifically investigating the reduction of risk of hyponatraemia when administering intravenous fluids to children, a recommendation was made that the modified wall chart displayed in Altnagelvin be removed and replaced with the regional format, with locally available fluids displayed on an additional sheet alongside it.

I enclose copies of both so that you can see what is displayed in Altnagelvin. The only change is the Western Trust logo and date at the top of the document and the substitution for the line "corporately approved solution" with the actual solution corporately approved. This is made clear on the Western Trust document, and marked with an asterisk.

It is my opinion that this reduces the risk attached to having to refer to an additional list of choices. It makes clear what the choice is, and that it is Western Trust policy. The suitability of this choice of fluid is based on considerable evidence gathered on 12 hourly electrolyte measurements on paediatric surgical patients.

I would value your comments.

Best regards,

G A Nesbitt