

Gillian HANSON

Gillian, 62, required ongoing psychiatric care and intermittent admissions since being diagnosed with schizophrenia in her early thirties. She was being managed in the community but when she refused her injection, and displayed psychotic symptoms, she was involuntarily admitted. She refused to cooperate for a physical examination upon admission. She was later found unresponsive and resuscitation was unsuccessful. Blood tests indicated a critically low sodium level.

The Chief Psychiatrist has requested that all mental health services ensure staff are reminded of the risk of hyponatraemia with SSRI, SNRI and all psychotropics. The Coronial Recommendations Working Group has referred this recommendation to the WA Psychotropic Drugs Committee for their consideration and advice regarding longer-term processes to ensure that staff consider this term on an ongoing basis.

The coronial recommendation from the Gillian Hanson inquest has been reviewed, actioned appropriately and marked as complete.