

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Dudley News, Kelly Harris
<b>Date of article</b>	02/11/16
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Hospital amends system after ‘upset’ to children</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>A COUPLE are celebrating after Russells Hall Hospital announced it would stop giving medication to children which made their daughter vomit.</p> <p>Gareth and Jennifer Payne claimed their asthmatic two-year-old daughter Hollie, who is a regular in-patient at the hospital’s paediatric department, was one of many children who were sick as a result of taking the non-soluble version of prednisolone.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>A petition was launched online about non-soluble prednisolone being administered to children at Russells Hall Hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dudley News asked the Trust for a comment on the petition and asked if soluble medication was removed.</li> </ul>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DR PAUL HARRISON, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>In line with national guidance, and in common with other hospitals, we limited the use of soluble prednisolone in March this year. Although we are now mainly using the ‘non-soluble’ version, a liquid form has always been available as an alternative. The soluble version was available in exceptional clinical circumstances.</p> <p>We are grateful for this issue being brought to our attention as it has now become clear that, although guidance was issued on the use of the three preparations, there was lack of clarity in paediatrics.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to good clinical practice, we have just completed an audit which has shown that some younger children find it difficult to tolerate the ‘non-</p>	

soluble' form.

As a result of the audit and this feedback, we have reverted to soluble only prednisolone in paediatric areas.

Although these issues have not been formally raised with us, we use all feedback as part of our ongoing commitment to improving patient experience and, in this case, have taken immediate action. We would like to apologise for any distress caused to children or their families.

**What is the difference in price?**

The soluble version of the tablet is 30 times more expensive than the 'non-soluble' version.

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***

**Notes for editors**

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications and Staff Engagement Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email [communications@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk)