

Hospital contradicted at inquest

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A nurse contradicted the Hospital for Sick Children yesterday at an inquest into Lisa Shore's death, saying she read a doctor's orders two hours after the 10-year-old girl died.

According to the children's hospital, personnel did not become aware of the orders requiring intensive monitoring of the girl until Jan. 26, 1999, three months after the girl's death on Oct. 22, 1998.

Nurse Ruth Doerksen, who was responsible for Lisa's care, also told the inquest she printed out the orders from a hospital computer two days lat-

er and took the copy home, where it still may be.

Entered into a computer by an emergency room doctor, the orders were meant to ensure Lisa did not suffer breathing difficulties while being administered morphine, a very dangerous drug.

The orders are at the heart of the inquest, as several experts have testified Lisa's life would probably have been saved if the problems had been detected earlier. The jury has heard that none of Lisa's nurses, who should have read the orders, were aware of them before the girl's death.

Lisa died suddenly of respi-

ratory and heart failure after going to the hospital the evening before for help with pain from a broken leg.

Doctors at Boston's Children's Hospital had diagnosed her with reflex sympathetic dystrophy, a rare condition marked by chronic burning pain that often starts with a minor injury, such as a fracture.

Doerksen said that about two hours after Lisa died she saw the orders on a counter where another nurse was sorting them out, and read them. She could not recall who the nurse was, she said.

About two days later, she printed out a copy of the or-

ders, which were contained in a patient care plan.

She did not tell anyone at the hospital she had seen them, she said.

Coroner Jim Cairns said the new information, which wasn't known until yesterday, would have had a bearing on the original coroner's investigation into Lisa's death and could now prolong the inquest.

In another development, Cairns told the inquest yesterday jurors had expressed concern nurse Doerksen was being coached by head nodding or shaking by certain members of the courtroom audience. "It is inappropriate," he said.