

Hill Frank (RQ3) BCH

From: Peter Stevens [GRO-C]
Sent: 08 September 2004 18:25
To: Mark Winter
Cc: frank.hill [GRO-C]
Subject: Skipton

I understand that there is an imminent meeting of UKHCDO, and wonder if there is time to stir you all up a bit.

The subject of "spontaneous clearance" was clearly less understood by the politicians and their advisers than it might have been. We now have over cases of people (not all with haemophilia) who are PCR negative without receiving interferon, some of them with no records of chronic stage infection. But some of those have indications of cirrhosis.

Christine Lee is not passing any spontaneous clearance applications to us, believing the whole attempt to exclude them to be logically or scientifically flawed. Other Centres are taking different approaches, but certainly there is inconsistency, which is quite understandable.

There is also inconsistency within Skipton. All applications are being signed off by a director, who was initially myself alone but now Liz Boyd is also doing her share (or more) and Roger Tyrrell, the other London-based director, will shortly be joining in. In the early days I certainly passed, and we have paid, a number of spontaneous clearers who had evidence of chronic-stage infection. Now, with Liz obviously following Christine's line, I am having to fall into line, so cases I would earlier have passed are being held.

I have urged Richard Gutowski (DoH) and Bob Stock (Edinburgh) to review the whole subject and amend the scheme rules so that we do not try to discriminate against those who cleared naturally.

The purpose of this Email is to ask whether UKHCDO as a whole could add their weight to my request.

I fully accept that it might have been better for your views to have been sought on this before the questionnaire was finalised, but hope that it is not too late now to put things right.

Peter

08/02/2005

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