


NOTE OF A MEETING
RE: PLASMA PRODUCTS NOTIFICATION IN BCH
ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 3.30pm

Present: Dr Miriam McCarthy DHSSPS
Dr Glenda Mock DHSSPS
Dr Brian Smyth HPA (COSCOND)
Dr Frank Jones BCH
Dr David Edgar, RVH
Dr Kieran Morris NIBTS
Dr Orla McNulty BCH
Dr Sid Dempsey RVH

1. Dr McCarthy explained the purpose of the meeting was to advise the group on the proposed plan of action for notifying patients who have received plasma products potentially contaminated with vCJD.
2. It had been proposed by DH(L) on 7 September 2004 letters would issue to clinicians in haemophilia centres, medical directors of Trusts and other relevant medical personnel, including GPs advising them of the patient notification exercise, giving advice on implicated batches and asking them to trace records.
3. On Monday 6 September Dr McCarthy received an email from Dr Brian Smyth, HPA/CDSC advising that DH(L) had requested a hold be put on the issue of the letters as the Secretary of State had requested a meeting to consider the matter further. At 2.45pm today Dr McCarthy was further advised by DH(L) that the letters would issue on Wednesday 8 September but she was not to organise distribution prior to being contacted by them. The timescale for the issue of letters to patients in the haemophilia "umbrella" group remains unchanged and these will issue on Tuesday 21 September 2004.
4. A general discussion took place about what would be involved, how the task should be handled and the additional administration work involved. Dr Dempsey asked who would handle any publicity and Dr McCarthy confirmed DH(L) will be holding a press conference on Wednesday 22 September and following that any further questions relating to Northern Ireland will be handled locally by DHSSPSNI or HPA.

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5. Dr McCarthy advised in addition to the information pack which provides clear guidelines on what needs to be done by those involved further information will issue at a later date. This will provide details on the implicated batches of plasma products showing batch numbers, issue date, lot number and the amount of product which would have needed to be administered to a patient to put them in the at risk category.
 6. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 14 September 2004, BCH at 3.30pm.