

DRAFT SUBMISSION TO PS(H)

AIDS : HEALTH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

A. What the Department has done:-

Guidance issued

(1984) 1
1. HEC leaflet - 'Some Facts about AIDS' available to the public through the Health Education Council and through sexually transmitted disease clinics. The contents of this leaflet was agreed between HEC and the DESS.

2. ~~Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP)~~ Interim Guidelines (JANUARY 1985) drawn up by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens setting out measures to be taken to safeguard the health and safety of people who because of their work come into direct contact with AIDS patients or specimens from them. These are currently being reviewed.

3. Blood donors AIDS : Important new advice for blood donors - ^{REVISED} leaflet given to all donors after January 1985.

4. CMO(85)7 15 May 1985.

Chief Medical Officer letter accompanying a booklet on AIDS:-

"AIDS - General Information for Doctors" sent to all doctors in England and Wales.

5. Letter from the Chief Nursing Officer dated 15 July 1985 to Regional Nursing Officers drawing attention to "Infection Control Guidelines for the Community Care of AIDS Patients and other HTLV III Positive Clients" - a paper prepared by Miss E Jenner, nurse member of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS. This paper was endorsed by the Expert Group.

6. Funding of the Terrence Higgins Trust - a grant of £25,000 was given to the Trust by the Government in 1985 (under Section 64). *THE TRUST IS A REGISTERED CHARITY WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING CONCERNING AIDS TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY*

7. Legislation - Regulations under the 1984 Public Health Act, for use in exceptional circumstances. *FOR THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION, ADMISSION/OR DETENTION IN HOSPITAL OF A PATIENT IN A DANGEROUSLY INFECTIOUS STATE*

Blood and Blood Products

(a) Factor VIII and Factor IX - *heat treatment*

(b) Voluntary exclusion of high risk donors (as mentioned in the blood donor leaflet).

B. Action in Progress

1. Introduction by PHLS of HTLV III antibody testing in the Blood Transfusion Service and in alternative sites at District level by mid-October 1985. (£25,000 for evaluation of the test, £80,000 for the field trial, £750,000 for HTLV III testing by PHLS (1985-86)).

2. Counselling of HTLV III seropositive individuals, AIDS patients and their relatives and friends. A training programme has been set up in the clinical psychology unit at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street. The aim is to have trained counsellors *APPROX.* (200) available when the

3. Health Education of Specific Groups

- (i) Gay groups - TWBA and/or HEC with in-built market research.
Group including Gay groups advising the Department. *PROPOSED
LEAFLET AND POSTER CAMPAIGN*
- (ii) Drug abusers - group advising DHSS. *PROPOSED LEAFLET CAMPAIGN
TO BE GIVEN OUT BY THOSE IN CONTACT WITH DRUG ABUSERS*
- (iii) Haemophiliacs - Haemophilia Directors are advising DHSS.
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- (iv) Covert groups - possibility of a phone number, giving advice
on access to the test. *AND COUNSELLING*
- (v) General public - public opinion survey. What do the public
know? What is their attitude to AIDS? *(INFORMATION DIVISION
INVESTIGATING)*
- (vi) Education for health professionals - postgraduate and undergraduate
training.

4. HTLV III seropositive health care personnel : Employment Group

This is being set up (Chairman Dr David Ower).

5. HTLV III and Renal Units - Working Group

This is being set up (Chairman Dr Sheila Polakoff).

6. Guidance to surgeons anaesthetists and dentists *DEALING WITH HTLV III ANTIBODY POSITIVE
INDIVIDUAL*

C. For early consideration by the Department

1. The provision of day care centres for the care of ambulant AIDS patients.
2. The setting up of an inter-Departmental group to hear a presentation on AIDS and to look at the AIDS-related problems affecting each Department.

D. Research

Co-ordination of current proposals.