

Dr Geffen

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

1. Thank you for your minute of June 6th and the FO(H) folder including MB(H)'s reaction to the submission - I have not yet received my copy of Mr Venning's minute.

2. I agree that the first step would be for Supply Division to communicate to MHD that Ministers would not wish the vaccine to be on sale in this country. I gather that Secretary of State's meeting with Mr Homan of MHD has been cancelled as an occasion will need to be manufactured. I am minuting Supply Division separately.

3. On other action which falls to us. I think we should do nothing until we get feedback from Supply Division on whether MHD are to market in this country or not. If not we need only report that and Ministers' decisions to JCVI and the Advisory Group on Hepatitis. If they decide to market then we will need to draft a Health Notice and clear this with Ministers, which sets out the position and discourages use of the vaccine. It would need to go to JFO's and LMS's as well as health authorities.

8 June 1982

MISS M E STUART
CHD Room B1201A
AFN Ext.

GRO-C

c.c. Dr Hibbels
Dr Stoddman
Dr Rogers
Mr Rose
Mr Venning

Mr Taylor

Mr Nodder

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 27 May 1982 to Dr Harris.

2. I would like to support the comments made by Dr Harris in his reply to you on 4 June 1982. Staff working within Mental Handicapped Hospitals and their representatives are becoming increasingly aware of the high risk of contracting this infection, which can involve protracted absence from work and in some case cause long-term or permanent damage to health. A programme of immunisation for those patients and staff at highest risk is most desirable if the present unacceptable high rate of infection is to be reduced.

3. I am somewhat anxious should too much discretion be given to District Health Authorities on implementing a vaccination programme. If the available weight of scientific evidence is as high as Dr Harris has stated then would not DHAs (and ourselves) be criticised by both the Health and Safety Executive as well as professional organisations and Trade Unions for not acting in the best interest of our employees.

8 June 1982

MRS A A B POOLE
Deputy Chief Nursing Officer

Copy to:

Mr Shore
Dr Harris
Mrs Firth
Mr Hale
Dr Ceffen
Dr Silberras
Dr Griffiths
Miss Stuart
Mrs Patry
Mr Fletcher
Mr Collier
Dr Steadman

Miss Stuart

cc: Dr Sibellas
Mr Rose
Dr Steadman
R. Burns

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

You will have had a copy of Mr Venning's minute of 7 June to me indicating that MS(H) suggests we decline the offer from MSD and do what can be done to discourage the use of hepatitis B vaccine in this country. I am sending a copy of Mr Venning's minute to Mr Rose.

How do you suggest that we proceed with this? I imagine that the question of communicating with MSD is for Supply Division but we will presumably need at some stage to report to the JCVI and the Advisory Group on Hepatitis and we will also need to consider in what way we transmit the message that the use of the vaccine is not being encouraged. Perhaps we could discuss.

GRO-C

8 June 1982

T. GELFEN

C716

GRO-C

Mr B W Taylor *BWT.*

9.6

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Please see Mr Venning's minute of June 7th and the exchange of minutes between Dr Geffen and I on this folder (POH 2813/131).

Could we leave it to you to convey Minister's wishes about 'no sale' in this country to MSD - in the friendliest way! MSD have had only an interim reply to Mr Angel's letter of April 21st so far. I will of course be happy to help with the 'reasons for decision' part of the draft reply if you wish.

Perhaps you could also find out whether they propose to market in this country in view of that decision so that we can take the necessary follow-up action - as in para.3 of my minute to Dr Geffen.

GRO-C

MISS M E STUART
CHD Room B1201A
AFH Ext. **GRO-C**

8 June 1982

c.c. Mr Rose
Dr Geffen
Dr Steadman
Mr Jones
Mrs Firth - for information

Reference.....

Dr Geffen

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

MS(H) has considered your submission of 26 May and has commented:

"The whole thing strikes me as far too expensive. I am impressed by a cost of £3.3 million in the first year only to cover a limited number of high priority cases. Even then we will not prevent the majority of hepatitis B cases apparently. £3 million to prevent each death is given as the cost of full use of the vaccine. No PESC or other financial provision appears to have been made for the use of the vaccine.

I would like to say "no sale" in the friendliest possible way to the Company marketing the product. We should do everything possible to discourage its use in this country. The positive policy must be to press on to produce a British product at a more realistic price."

GRO-C

R W D VENNING
D614 AFH

Ext GRO-C

7 June 1982

cc
Dr Harris
Miss Stuart
Dr Sibellas
Dr Steadman
Mr Clark

CODE 18-78

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