Blood Products

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Subject: vCJD & BLOOD PRODUCTS: DRAFT INTERIM GUIDANCE

John

I would be grateful for urgent advice (ie by next Monday/Tuesday if possible) from you or one of your colleagues on paras 13 & 14 of the attached draft guidance. We are under pressure to issue this urgently and the draft is currently with Pat Troop for approval. However, I am concerned that the requirement mentioned in paras 13 & 14 to record the batch numbers of blood products (eg immunoglobulins, albumin etc) given to patients might set a number of hares running. In any case, you need to know that we're planning to say this.

One question is whether there is a cost issue in hospitals ensuring their prescribing systems can offer tracability.

You also mentioned that we will be asked whose responsibility it is to record this information.

I also wondered whether there is any existing guidance to hospitals that this guidance should refer to.

It may be that we need to tone down the wording to make this a matter of good practice rather than the mandatory requirement implicit in the current draft.

Sorry to drop this on you at the last minute. It would be helpful if we could say someting about the importance of recording batch numbers in the guidance but if you feel that this is going to cause problems it is not crucial enough to hold up the rest of the advice.

Charles

Interim Guidan