

HCV Look Back file



24th August 1995

Dr J Metters  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2NS

Dear Jeremy

### HCV Look Back: Estimate of Costs

As promised at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee I am now enclosing the estimated total costs of this exercise that are likely to be incurred by the NBA, based on our experience to date.

The administration costs have been broken down on a Zonal basis, however, it is still early days to fully establish the increased clinical/administrative/medical sessional time that will need to be devoted to this programme.

#### Northern Zone

Newcastle		
Leeds	increased Medical Clerical	
Sheffield	Consumable Equipment costs	= £66,850
Manchester	for 1995/96	
Lancaster		
Liverpool		

#### Midlands and South West Zone

Birmingham	increased Medical Clerical	
Oxford	Consumable Equipment costs	= £39,510
Southampton	for 1995/96	
Bristol		

#### London and South East Zone

North London/Colindale	increased Medical Clerical	
Brentwood	Consumable Equipment costs	= £100,721
South London/Tooting	for 1995/96	
Cambridge		

Increased total costs to the NBA = £207,081  
Estimated total costs for HCV Testing = £203,250  
(ELISA, RIBA & PCR tests based on 3,000 identified recipients)

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Blood  
Authority  
Oak House  
Reeds Crescent  
Watford  
Herts. WD1 1QH  
Tel: 01923 212121  
Fax: 01923 211031



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Again, the estimated total costs for HCV testing needs to be viewed with caution as I am only now just beginning to receive the LBF3 forms with the test results. So far considerably more than 5% of the samples are having to be submitted for HCV PCR testing but this may well balance out as the total number of identified recipients looks like being less than the originally estimated 3,000.

Barry Savery is introducing a mechanism for quarterly monitoring which will include central monitoring of the LBF3 forms. The LBF3 forms will be used as a mechanism for central invoicing and a quarterly payment system for the HCV testing laboratories.

I would like to suggest that the NBA institutes a quarterly billing arrangement with the Department of Health for the laboratory and administrative costs of the HCV Look Back programme such that the NBA can organise central payment from the NBA to the laboratories and the NBA zones concerned.

I hope that this will prove satisfactory and would appreciate your guidance on how to set this central billing mechanism in place as soon as possible as the NBA has already incurred a considerable amount of increased expenditure.

I also have no doubt that the PHLS labs will soon start getting restive if the NBA doesn't start reimbursing them for the HCV testing already undertaken. So far I have received approximately 50 returned LBF3 forms with testing and counselling completed but these are now coming in at an increasingly higher daily rate and would be helpful to get central DoH billing and NBA payment mechanism in place as soon as possible.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

**Dr E Angela E Robinson**  
**Medical Director**

cc Barry Savery