

HIM 16/1/27
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GRO-C

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14 February 2005

**Mr. William Connon
Blood Policy Group
Room 633B
Department of Health
Skipton House
80 London Road
London SE1 6LH**

Dear Mr. Connon,

I understand that you now have the responsibility for the payments from the Skipton Fund. I am sure you may have already become aware of the problem of natural clearers. Some 15-20% of individuals who are infected with hepatitis C cleared the virus naturally and although they continue to have antibody no measurable virus has been found in their blood. The initial infection of hepatitis C is almost universally asymptomatic and therefore for the most part such individuals have not to date received any payment. However, there is absolutely no doubt that due to the inexperience in the field of hepatitis C of many of my medical colleagues there have been individuals who have received payment although in actual fact they are natural clearers. It seems to me that the fairest thing would be that any individual who was infected with hepatitis C should receive payment. It wasn't until the early 1990s that we had a clear understanding and most people with haemophilia acquired hepatitis C infection in the late 1970s. They clearly had had a lot of worry about the implications before we were able to assure them that they had cleared the virus naturally.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Christine A. Lee
Professor of Haemophilia

**Cc ♦ Mr. Peter Stevens, Blood Policy Group, Room 633B, Department of Health,
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