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HCV Lookback

Briefing Paper for MSC - 10th October 1995

On 13th October 1995 the DOH Ad Hoc Working Party will discuss two possible extensions of the lookback process. I would like to be in a position to give the SNBTS views on these, endorsed by MSC. The issues are as follows:

1. Testing of all stored samples pre-September 1991

Following previous discussions, legal opinion in DOH and SHHD is that these samples should be tested and recipients of HCV-positive donations traced. Arguments against this are:

- only Scotland and North London have such archives. The exercise would therefore be only partial
- sample identification may be insecure, especially older samples
- samples may not be in perfect condition (e.g. freezer failure in SEBTS)
- cost-benefit will be very poor. I estimate around 3×10^6 samples in Scotland, ie. cost of kits around £6m. We would expect to find very few living recipients

The DOH is aware of the extremely poor cost-benefit ratio, and very reluctant to fund this. However, it may be necessary to do something. I would like to have MSC's view on whether to put forward a proposal to offer testing to anyone who has had a Transfusion (as is happening in Ireland), and if this is accepted, what the role of BTS should be.

FACTOR IX

- #### 2.
- Dr C Ludlam has proposed that recipients of ~~PEPX~~ prior to 1986 should be traced. This will be extremely difficult logistically - advice from the regions would be invaluable.

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