

Dr E Harris - on CMO (PO) file.

AIDS - DEATH OF BABY

The CMO has seen Mr M H Arthur's note of 12 April about the case of baby **GRO-A** and has commented:

"I agree with everything Mr Arthur says. However I am sure he remembers that three people have already been infected with HTLV III as a result of blood transfusion in the United Kingdom. Almost certainly others have as we know that several AIDS patients have donated blood in the months prior to diagnosis. I shall be very surprised if "native" cases of AIDS due to blood transfusion do not appear in the next year".

I attach a letter from Dr D R Chambers, Her Majesty's Coroner for Inner North District Greater London, who conducted the inquest into the death of baby **GRO-A**. The CMO would be grateful for a draft reply to Dr Chambers, please.

**GRO-C**

ROBERTS OATES

CMO's Office

A711 AFH

Ext **GRO-C**

/7 April 1985

cc: Mr C Joyce  
Dr Abrams  
Mr D Price  
Mr M A Harris  
Dr Smithies  
Mr A Williams ✓  
Mr M H Arthur  
- all with copy Dr Chamber's letter and attachment.  
RO

HER MAJESTY'S  
CORONER FOR  
INNER NORTH DISTRICT  
GREATER LONDON



H.M. CORONER'S COURT  
CAMLEY STREET  
LONDON, NW1 0PP

Telephones :  
CAMLEY STREET : 01-387 4882  
HACKNEY : 01-985 2808  
POPLAR : 01-987 3614  
**GRO-C**

12 April 1985

Dr F D Acheson  
Chief Medical Officer  
DH & SS  
Alexander Fleming House  
Elephant & Castle  
LONDON SE1 6BY

CRO

250403

To see. Papers  
attached.

*Dr Harris*  
*I would like to send*  
*an appropriate reply*

**GRO-C: Robert**

15/4

Dear Dr Acheson

**GRO-A**

Deceased dob **GRO-A** 1963 Washington DC

This unfortunate prematurely born boy died in the Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormonde Street on **GRO-A** and the cause of death la Pneumonia lb Acquired immune deficiency syndrome was referred to me by the local registrar of births and deaths. Enquiry at the hospital revealed that this was regarded as a consequence of the transfusion of blood infected with the virus whilst in hospital in Washington DC.

I have just completed the inquest and returned a verdict of death by misadventure. I stated in open court as the rule requires that I would be reporting the facts to you as I believe that the death falls within the rule: a copy of which I enclose.

Yours sincerely,

**GRO-C**

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## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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1984 No. 552

### CORONERS

#### The Coroners Rules 1984

(b) civil liability.

##### *Prevention of similar fatalities*

43. A coroner who believes that action should be taken to prevent the recurrence of fatalities similar to that in respect of which the inquest is being held may announce at the inquest that he is reporting the matter in writing to the person or authority who may have power to take such action and he may report the matter accordingly.

### PART VII

#### SUMMONING OF JURORS AND EXCUSAL FROM JURY SERVICE

##### *Summoning of jurors*

44. Subject to the provisions of these Rules, the person to whom the coroner's warrant is issued under section 3 of the Act of 1887 for the summoning of persons to attend as jurors at inquests shall have regard to them

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