

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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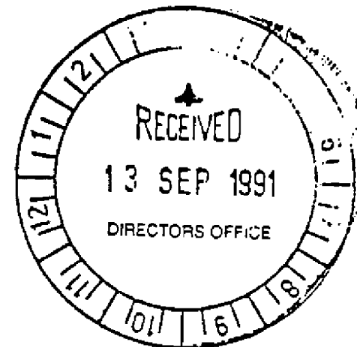
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HHG/LB

11th September 1991

SAME LETTER TO: All RTDs - England and Wales



Dr. J.F. Harrison,
Director,
North East Thames,
Regional Transfusion Centre,
Crescent Drive,
BRENTWOOD, Essex,
CM15 8DP.

Dear *Jan,*

ANTI-HCV TESTING - PLASMA FOR FRACTIONATION

In the Compendium of Recommendations on anti-HCV testing it was correctly recorded that BPL had agreed to accept plasma for fractionation where the screen test was positive but RIBA II was negative.

I have been informed by a member of the U.K. Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases that there is a possibility that ELISA positive RIBA negative samples may contain virus, although this is probably an uncommon finding. Also, there is concern in some RTCs that the extracting of RIBA negative plasma donations from quarantine deep freezers, which will contain both infected and non-infected packs, may lead to the incorrect issue of viraemic donations.

In view of this advice, and until these matters can be satisfactorily resolved, my recommendation is that no products should be issued from donations which are repeatably ELISA positive including plasma for fractionation. This means that Sections 5.13 and 6.3 in the Compendium are in abeyance until further notice.

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This advice does not apply to the management of repeatably ELISA positive RIBA negative donors which should be implemented as stated (Section 7.1). It is the retesting of these donors following subsequent donations which may assist in formulating a national policy for the future.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

H.H. GUNSON,
National Director

c.c. Dr. D. Thomas)
Dr. R.S. Lane) - BPL
Dr. T.J. Snape)
Dr. A. Rejman - DoH
Members of TTD Committee

LA checked with Paul Wallis that Microbiology were following these guidelines.

All HeV +ve IPP packs are withdrawn and disposed of on withdrawal forms

GRO-C

16/9/91

~~BWD/761~~

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