

Dr. H.H. Gunson CBE,
National Director,
National Directorate,
Gateway House,
Piccadilly South,
Manchester M13 9LL.

EAER/SEG

17th June, 1993.

Dear Harold,

Anti-HBc Testing of Blood Donations

I believe that on the basis of the scientific information that we already have we should implement anti-HBc screening of all donors as soon as is practically feasible. I have been made even more acutely aware of the potential problems of not introducing it sooner rather than later by a recent report of a probable post-transfusion Hepatitis B case in my own region. YBTS is in a position both from a funding and logistical point of view to introduce testing in Oct. 1993. By revenue savings made within our microbiology department we believe we can introduce anti-HBc screening without requesting any extra funds from Region (which we would be unlikely to get anyway!) and also without having to increase our prices to customers for blood and blood components in this financial year.

I appreciate that there are still some issues to resolve prior to implementation such as the provision of suitable standard material and appropriate algorithms, for computer software changes in terms of handling the screening results and the fate of the donors and the donations. However I still feel that on scientific grounds we should try and introduce an anti-HBc donation screening programme by October 1993 even if in some regions this may mean increasing prices within year to cover the cost of testing.

Another hot one for you!

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr. E. Angela Robinson,
Chief Executive