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Action Being Taken on AIDS - Telephone Discussion with Dr Harold Gunson

1. DHSS does not plan to take any drastic measures with respect to restricting imports of American factor VIII.
2. The following actions have been discussed by HG with the Department, in relation to the approach to UK blood donors:
  - (a) Add to the donor questionnaire more specific questions to elicit shivering, general malaise, unexpected weight loss. No changes in the routine physical assessment of the donor is proposed.
  - (b) Avoid collecting blood in high risk locations such as prisons or locations where there is known to be a high proportion of homosexuals or drug abusers in the population.
  - (c) Prepare an information leaflet to be made freely available to donors at blood collection sessions. The precise content of the leaflet has not been discussed, but I confirmed with HG that this would specifically make the request to high-risk groups to refrain from donating blood.
  - (d) National publicity, perhaps in the form of an article for publication in "Gay News".
  - (e) Screening of donors - I understand no recommendation will be made to the English Directors on this point.

Dr Gunson states that the decision has been made to propose options (a) and (b) to the English Transfusion Directors. Option (c), the production and issue of a booklet for donors, is, he suggests to be held back for a few weeks until it is clear whether the present high level of media attention is to continue.

GRO-C

DBLMcC