

RESTRICTED POLICY

From: Bob Stock
Health Planning & Quality
17 September 2003

Minister for Health & Community Care

QUARTERLY POLICY MEETING OF HEALTH MINISTERS 22 SEPTEMBER 2003 BRIEFING FOR HEPATITIS C ITEM

Purpose

1. To provide an update on recent 'HCV from blood' discussions for the above appearance.

Priority

2. Urgent

Update on discussions

3. I took part in a meeting in London on September 11 between the English, Welsh and NI 'blood' officials (also attended by DWP) to discuss the way forward on 'HCV from blood' ex gratia scheme(s).
4. There was broad agreement on general parameters in line with those trailed in Scotland i.e. £20k basic award, £25k additional award linked to defined medical trigger point, no payments to those who have cleared the virus spontaneously or to dependants, relatives or estates of those who have died prior to establishment of the scheme. 29 August was accepted as the establishment date, with payments to dependants being made in respect of eligible persons who die between that date and the time when the scheme is in a position to make payments.
5. It was agreed that establishment of a single UK Trust was desirable provided this did not cause too much delay. DH will enter into discussion with Macfarlane Trust on this.
6. DH special advisers will draft some general lines which they will share with us. These will not reveal any detail beyond that already available in press releases, but may indicate UK wide discussions have begun and may hint that patient organisations may be consulted on scheme administration and medical trigger – but not on scheme parameters.
7. Detail on scheme eligibility, administration, financial, legal and medical issues will be discussed by relevant officials of the four administrations over the coming weeks. It is hoped that these will enable detailed proposals to be submitted to Ministers of the four administrations in mid October – with a public announcement on the broad parameters in late October/early November.
8. It will be necessary to establish the Trust(s) by December as DWP need the Trust name and the date of the Trust deed by then in order for it to be incorporated in the revision of social security legislation at the April 2004 review.

Conclusion

Ministers are invite to note the above progress.

BOB STOCK
Health Planning & Quality 46913

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*Dr. Sumner
Version 1.1*

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Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy Minister for Health & Community Care					X

PS/HD
Press Health
Jeane Freeman - Senior Special Adviser
Matthew Clark - Special Adviser
Policy Unit
Ian Gordon, Service Policy and Planning
David Palmer, Performance Management & Finance
Andrew MacLeod, Health Planning & Quality
Dr Aileen Keel, DCMO
Jan Marshall, OSSE