

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr Chris Bartlett

FROM: Dr Angus Nicoll

CC: Dr Diana Walford  
Prof Brian Duerden  
Ms Christine Murphy  
Dr Barry Evans  
Dr Noël Gill  
Mrs Janet Mortimer

GRO-C

*To keep  
you informed of  
progress*

GRO-C

DATE: 11 April 1997

SUBJECT: Probable case of recent transfusion related transmission of HIV in the UK - North West Region.

## STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Further to a previous communication (26 March - attached), VRD has undertaken detailed HIV testing on residues of serum from blood donations received by the woman who was recently found to be HIV infected. Their results indicate that it is almost certain that her infection came from a blood transfusion which has been identified. The same infective donation was received by two other persons, one of whom has died and the other of whom has a severe vascular condition with a poor prognosis. VRD is continuing investigation work with colleagues in the North West and the National Blood Authority.

Colleagues in the North West are now approaching the source donor for the infective donation, considering how to approach the surviving exposed patient, and whether to test some serum from the patient who died. The original woman whose infection was detected is aware of her HIV diagnosis.

The Department of Health and National Blood Authority have been kept informed throughout and have worked out their lines of action and communication.

CDSC's role is purely advisory. We are represented on the Infection Control Team in the North West by Dr Syed. So far information about the cases have not entered the public domain but will inevitably do so at some point. The National Blood Authority will probably wish then to take the lead.

It is worth noting that there has always been a recognised potential risk for such infections taking place through the window period and that an earlier case was described the BMJ as taking place in the UK (Scotland) in 1986.

GRO-C