

THE ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY
QUEEN VICTORIA ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 4LP
DEPARTMENT OF HAEMATOLOGY

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Thursday 11 November 1993

(PJH. MDU No. 083099C(12108)

Mr R Bradbeer
Wilkinson Maughan
Solicitors
35 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1XX



Dear Mr Bradbeer,

re. Blood Transfusion and Hepatitis Testing

I enclose a copy of a letter I received today from my local Blood Transfusion Chief Executive.

As the Consultant in Administrative Charge of Blood Bank at this hospital, I am charged with the issue of 'safe' blood to patients. It would seem that although there is a 'test' which could improve the safety of the blood issued in my name it appears that for financial reasons in this country it has been decided not to use it.

In view of the recent controversy in France where delay in introducing a known technology to improve safety of blood products resulted in doctors subsequently going to prison, I would be grateful if you could reassure me as to my position if any patient at the RVI were to develop Hepatitis B despite my knowing that the blood had not been tested as rigorously as is possible.

There are of course implications of this decision for the Trust as a whole with regard to which patients should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B particularly if it is known that they are likely to receive a blood transfusion.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr Peter J Hamilton
Consultant Haematologist

cc Medical Defence Union, 192 Altringham Road, Sharston, Manchester. M22 4RZ
Dr RAL Brewis, Medical Director, RVI
Dr H Lloyd, Chief Executive, RBTS
Dr H Gunson, Chief Executive, National Directorate, NBTS. Manchester. ✓
Dr D Stainsby, Chairman, Northern Region Consultant Haematologists Group

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