

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr R Masterman cc Dr R W Doughry
FROM: Dr H L Lloyd
SUBJECT: HCV Testing
DATE: 6 February 1991

From Dr Gunson, it would appear that he is looking for 30th June 1991 to be the date from which all red cell units issued will be HCV negative. Presumably that means that testing will have to start some weeks in advance. He did however suggest that 15th June would be appropriate but I can't see how that fitted in with the normal shelf life of blood other than being an arbitrary amount of time for all the stock held on our shelves to get through to Issues.

Apparently Centres have indicated that they could start HCV testing at varying times during the year, ranging from 1st April 1991 for some Centres, up to October 1991 for others. Dr Gunson is going to try and persuade them to come down to a date in the middle of June.

He seems to think that this date in the middle of June might make it possible for Abbott to be able to introduce their second generation test, which is currently embargoed due to contractual problems.

Apparently Abbott's second generation test run in Glasgow on the 69 positives which were repeatably positive by the first generation test in the recent trial, found that 7 samples were positive. 6 of these were then found to have been the ones confirmed to be positive by the Reference Centres. Dr Gunson also mentioned that only 6 samples were confirmed to be positive by the Reference Centres in the recent trial. All three Centres found the same 6 samples as being positive. Thus the rate of confirmed positives is 6 in 10,000. Of the repeatable positives in the trial, the rate is apparently approximately 1 in 10 confirmed.

GRO-C:Lloyd

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