

3569 DHSSHQ G
EUROPA C STRBG

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1. Mr Jacobson GRO-C

2. Mr Parley m. a. b. GRO-C

You might want to be aware of this as the subject is 225A
Cl. come up in an EC who contact also 6
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GRO-C

Copies to

Mr Manning CHD

Mr Winstanley HSA

Dr Hyzler MED INC

Dr Subella MED INC

Dr Hafford MED SEB

✓ Mr Stallowell RI (GRO-C)

TEL 4798 OF 3.6.83

FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION (IR 15)
ROOM C 512 A
ALEXANDER FLEMING HOUSE
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE
LONDON

FROM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
STRASBOURG

Do you have any comments that
you would like me to pass on to the UK
delegation in Strasbourg, please.

GRO-C

AT ITS 6TH MEETING (LISBON, 16-19 MAY 1983) THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ^{IR 15}
ON BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY (SP-HM) PREPARED A DRAFT
RECOMMENDATION ON PREVENTING THE LIKELY TRANSMISSION OF AIDS THROUGH ^{3/6/83}
TRANSFUSION SO AS TO PROVIDE ALL CONCERNED MILIEUX WITH UNIFORM
EUROPEAN GUIDELINES ON THE RELEVANT MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.

CONSIDERING THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF AIDS AND THE NEED TO
INFORM DONORS AND REASSURE RECIPIENTS, THE SP-HM REQUESTED THE
SECRETARIAT URGENTLY TO SUBMIT THIS DRAFT RECOMMENDATION TO THE
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR ADOPTION.

THE EUROPEAN HEALTH COMMITTEE BUREAU HAS AGREED THAT THE TEXT
SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT THE 361ST COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS MEETING,
13-22 JUNE.

AS AGREED WITH ITS BUREAU THE CDSP WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON THE FIRST DAY OF
ITS NEXT MEETING (20 JUNE), IE THE DAY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS WILL BE TAKING A STAND ON THE TEXT.

ANY COMMENT ON THIS TEXT ON YOUR SIDE SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED TO
YOUR COUNTRY'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION NO. R (83) ...
ON PREVENTING THE LIKELY TRANSMISSION OF
ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)
FROM BLOOD DONORS TO PATIENTS RECEIVING BLOOD OR
BLOOD PRODUCTS

"THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE 15 (B)
OF THE STATUTE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE:",

CONSIDERING THAT THE AIM OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS TO
ACHIEVE A GREATER UNITY BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND THAT THIS AIM MAY
BE PURSUED, INTER ALIA, BY THE ADOPTION OF COMMON REGULATIONS IN
THE HEALTH FIELD:,

CONSIDERING THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF A NEW AND SEVERE HEALTH
HAZARD, ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS), THAT MAY BE
CAUSED BY AN INFECTIOUS AGENT TRANSMISSIBLE BY BLOOD AND BLOOD
PRODUCTS:,

RECALLING THE BASIC PRINCIPLES TO MINIMISE THE HAZARD OF
TRANSMISSIBLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS DRAWN
UP IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON BLOOD
TRANSFUSION AND IMMUNOHAEMATOLOGY:

1. TO EXPOSE THE RECIPIENT TO A MINIMUM NUMBER OF DONATIONS
OF BLOOD WHEN THE TRANSFUSION IS OF CELLULAR AND
COAGULATION FACTOR PRODUCTS,
- WM TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE PRODUCTION
OF COAGULATION FACTOR PRODUCTS FROM VOLUNTARY,
NON-REMUNERATED DONORS,
3. TO AVOID THE IMPORTATION OF BLOOD PLASMA AND COAGULATION
FACTOR PRODUCTS FROM COUNTRIES WITH HIGH RISK POPULATIONS
AND FROM PAID DONORS:,

RECALLING RECOMMENDATION R (80) 5 CONCERNING BLOOD PRODUCTS
FOR THE TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIACS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
SECTION II OF THE OPERATIVE CLAUSE, AND RECOMMENDATION R (81) 14
ON PREVENTING THE TRANSMISSION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF BLOOD, ITS COMPONENTS AND DERIVATIVES:,

RECOGNISING THE NECESSITY TO PROVIDE PERTINENT INFORMATION
TO BLOOD DONORS, ATTENDING PHYSICIANS AND SELECTED RECIPIENT
GROUPS IN ORDER TO AVOID, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, DONATIONS BY PERSONS
IN HIGH RISK GROUPS WITHOUT INAPPROPRIATE DISCRIMINATION AND
EMOTIVE OVER-REACTION AMONGST RECIPIENTS:,

POSITIVE OVER-REACTION AMONGST RECIPIENTS:.

RECOMMENDS THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES:

I. TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS AND MEASURES IN RESPECT TO AIDS AND, IN PARTICULAR:

- TO AVOID THE USE OF COAGULATION FACTOR PRODUCTS PREPARED FROM LARGE PLASMA POOLS EXCEPT WHEN SUCH A PRODUCT IS SPECIFICALLY INDICATED FOR MEDICAL REASONS:; THIS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH PRODUCTS HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED:;

- TO INFORM ATTENDING PHYSICIANS AND SELECTED RECIPIENTS, SUCH AS HAEMOPHILIACS, OF THE POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS OF HAEMOTHERAPY AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF MINIMISING THESE RISKS:;

- TO PROVIDE ALL BLOOD DONORS WITH INFORMATION ON AIDS SO THAT THOSE IN HIGH RISK GROUPS WILL REFRAIN FROM DONATING (AN EXAMPLE OF AN INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR DONORS IS APPENDED):;

II. TO PURSUE RAPID AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS R (80) 5 AND R (31) 14.

APPENDIX

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THE PRESENT INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR DONORS HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND IS GIVEN AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES WISHING TO DRAW UP THEIR OWN INFORMATION BOOKLET.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL BLOOD DONORS

THIS INFORMATION IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL POTENTIAL BLOOD DONORS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREADING OF CERTAIN ILLNESSES FROM DONORS TO PATIENTS BY BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS.

PLEASE READ THIS STATEMENT, AND IF YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A RISK THAT YOUR BLOOD COULD CAUSE ILLNESS IN A PATIENT WHO MIGHT RECEIVE IT, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DONATING BLOOD AT THIS TIME.

WHAT ARE THESE ILLNESSES?

SOME PERSONS MAY FEEL IN EXCELLENT HEALTH BUT HAVE VIRUSES OR OTHER INFECTIOUS AGENTS IN THEIR BLOOD. IF YOU THINK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PERTAINS TO YOU, PLEASE DO NOT DONATE BLOOD TODAY:

1. ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

THIS NEWLY DESCRIBED ILLNESS OF UNKNOWN CAUSE IS BELIEVED TO BE SPREAD BY INTIMATE PERSONAL CONTACT AND, POSSIBLY, BY BLOOD TRANSFUSION. PERSONS WITH AIDS HAVE REDUCED DEFENSES AGAINST DISEASE AND AS A RESULT MAY DEVELOP INFECTIONS SUCH AS PNEUMONIA, OR OTHER SERIOUS ILLNESSES. AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO LABORATORY TEST TO DETECT ALL PERSONS WITH AIDS. THEREFORE WE MUST RELY ON BLOOD DONORS' HEALTH HISTORIES TO EXCLUDE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE BLOOD MIGHT TRANSMIT AIDS TO PATIENTS WHO WILL RECEIVE THAT BLOOD.

THE OFFICE OF BIOLOGICS OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
HAS IDENTIFIED GROUPS AT AN INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING AIDS.
THESE GROUPS ARE:

- PERSONS WITH SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS SUGGESTIVE OF AIDS.
THESE INCLUDE SEVERE NIGHT SWEATS, UNEXPLAINED FEVERS,
UNEXPECTED WEIGHT LOSS, LYMPHADENOPATHY (SWOLLEN GLANDS)
OR KAPOSI'S SARCOMA (A RARE CANCER);
- SEXUALLY ACTIVE HOMOSEXUALS OR BISEXUAL MEN WITH MULTIPLE
PARTNERS;
- RECENT HAITIAN ENTRANTS INTO THE UNITED STATES;
- PRESENT OR PAST ABUSERS OF INTRAVENOUS DRUGS;
- SEXUAL PARTNERS OF PERSONS AT INCREASED RISK OF AIDS.

2. HEPATITIS

PERSONS WITH A PAST HISTORY OF VIRAL HEPATITIS WERE DEFERRED
PERMANENTLY. INTIMATE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE SUFFERING FROM VIRAL
HEPATITIS REQUIRES DEFERRAL FOR SIX MONTHS.

3. SYPHILIS

POTENTIAL BLOOD DONORS WITH ACTIVE SYPHILIS ARE DEFERRED.

4. MALARIA

POTENTIAL BLOOD DONORS WHO HAVE VISITED COUNTRIES WHERE
MALARIA EXISTS ARE DEFERRED FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER LEAVING THE
MALARIOUS AREA, OR IF ANTI-MALARIAL DRUGS WERE TAKEN, FOR THREE
YEARS AFTER CESSATION OF THIS DRUG THERAPY. NATIVES FROM COUNTRIES
WHERE MALARIA EXISTS ARE DEFERRED FOR THREE YEARS;. HAITI IS ONE
OF THESE COUNTRIES.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU MAY BE CARRYING ONE OF THE ABOVE-
MENTIONED ILLNESSES, OR IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL IN A GROUP AT
INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING AIDS, WE ASK THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM
DONATING BLOOD AT THIS TIME. YOU MAY LEAVE NOW WITHOUT PROVIDING
AN EXPLANATION. OR, IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY PROCEED TO BE DEFERRED
CONFIDENTIALLY, WITHOUT FURTHER QUESTIONING, BY THE HEALTH HISTORY
INTERVIEWER.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RED CROSS NURSES
AND PHYSICIANS WILL BE PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY
HAVE.

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