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"vCJD and Plasma Products"

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Nathan Moore

23/07/2004 14:43

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Subject: vCJD and Plasma Products

RESTRICTED - Policy

Dear all

We have received a response from Minister on the plasma products submission.

Minister has agreed

- to an "umbrella" approach being taken for the management of the specific sub-group of people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders who received UK sourced plasma products between 1980 and 2001, and an individual approach for

others.

- to informing clinicians treating people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders and PID patients of the product risk
- to informing people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders (and PID patients who are assessed to be 'at risk') via their clinicians of these risks.
- to ensuring the NHS traces implicated products to all patients where possible, liaising with BPL and NBS.
- to the proposals to develop a communications strategy to enable the above notifications.

However, Minister does not feel that there is a need to place this notification exercise into the public domian by way of a press release. She felt that the oral statement made previously by Secretary of State made it clear that recipients of plasma products might be at risk and that notifications would follow a risk assesment. All we are doing is following up on that satement.

As a result, we now need to ensure that the notification exercise moves forward as planned.

Minister's decision about not issuing a press release should assist both HPA and clinicans by removing the potential timing conflict between the press announcement and getting individual letters out to patients. This should allow more scope for the clinicains to arrange their own communications to patients.

However, in order to meet the commitment made in the submission, we must ensure that we keep to the timings agreed at the meeting between DH and HPA on 20th July. We would expect to have seen the finalised project plan and timelines for the communications exercise by **28th July** and the letters and information packs for both PID and Haemophiliac clinicians are ready to be distributed on **11th August.**

We look forward to receiving briefing material on the strategy by 30th July to enable DH to prepare Qs&As.

Noel - please would you ensure that this note is copied to all those that were at the meeting held on 9th June. It should be noted that this is restricted - policy information and must be treated in confidence.

Please feel free to come back to me should you wish to discuss any points.

Thanks again

Nathan Moore
vCJD / Blood Policy Team