

SCREENING OF BLOOD DONATIONS FOR ANTI-HTLV III
IN REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRES

REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSFUSION DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE

C O R R I G E N D U M

The following paragraph replaces item 3 on the report circulated to members of the E.A.G.A.

3) INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-HTLV III SCREENING TESTS

It was agreed that the following conditions should apply with respect to the screening of blood donations routinely for anti-HTLV III

3.1 That an evaluation in the N.B.T.S. of different test kits should be performed to enable satisfactory system(s) to be selected.

3.2 Prior to commencement of screening in the N.B.T.S. there should be:

3.2.1 The establishment of Reference Centres for the purpose of carrying-out nationally agreed confirmatory tests on sera giving positive results on screening.

3.2.2 The establishment of alternative venues for anti-HTLV III tests on members of the General Public who are not blood donors.

It was recognised that there was a degree of urgency for the introduction of routine anti-HTLV III screening of blood donations which precluded the completion of N.B.T.S. evaluation of different test kits prior to arrangements being undertaken for the introduction of routine screening. Regional Transfusion Directors are being advised, therefore, to make arrangements with their respective R.H.A.'s for the introduction of routine screening whilst the N.B.T.S. evaluation is proceeding, the selection of kits for use being made on the recommendations from the P.H.L.S. study. Long-term contracts with a particular manufacturer should be avoided until the results of the N.B.T.S. evaluation are available.

By this means it may be possible to commence screening of blood donations by October, 1985, and it was agreed that the introduction of the tests should take place throughout the U.K. over the shortest period practicable.