

GRO-C

PQ247050 ✓

PQ247051 ✓

PQ247052 ✓

PQ247053

2008/2009

Han Ref:

Vol 486

Col 1618W

Tuesday 13 January 2009

Written Answer

Thursday 22 January 2009

VARIANT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

Jenny Willott (Cardiff Central):

411 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the estimated cost is of testing for vCJD all those considered potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [247050]

412 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of those considered to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS have been informed of their at risk status; and if he will make a statement. [247051]

413 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many haemophiliacs are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [247052]

414 To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [247053]

DAWN PRIMAROLO

There are between 4,000 and 5,000 people, mostly haemophiliacs, currently considered at risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease because of exposure or potential exposure via blood products. The haemophiliacs have been informed of their risk status by the haemophilia doctors managing their care, and the general practitioners of those who are



not haemophiliacs have been informed of the need to advise their patients appropriately. The cost of testing this group, should suitable tests become available, has not been estimated.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PQ247050, PQ247051, PQ247052 and PQ247053.	2008/2009
Commons Ordinary Written	

Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central) To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the estimated cost is of testing for vCJD all those considered potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247050]

Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central) To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of those considered to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS have been informed of their at risk status; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247051]

Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central) To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many haemophiliacs are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247052]

Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central) To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247053]

Target Date:	19/01/2009
For Answer on:	13/01/2009
Notice Paper Date:	12/01/2009
Notice Paper Page:	740
MP (Party):	Jennifer Willott MP (Liberal Democrat)

DRAFT REPLY TO REACH PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH BY

12:00 14/01/2009

GRO-C

**Monday
19/01 Noon**

Background

This reply also covers replies to three other PQs: PQ247051, PQ247052 and PQ247053.

Jenny Willott MP is secretary of the APPG on Haemophilia. She may have asked these questions in anticipation of Lord Archer's forthcoming independent inquiry report on blood products contaminated with hepatitis C in the past.

The CJD Incidents Panel, the UK Haemophilia Doctors Organisation, the Haemophilia Society and the Department of Health have agreed that approximately 4000-5000 patients with bleeding disorders who had received UK sourced blood products between 1980 and 2001 should be managed as "at risk" for public health purposes. This was irrespective of whether individual patients had received products from a donor known to have developed vCJD. Haemophiliacs were notified by the haemophilia doctor responsible for their care, and the GPs looking after the small number (about 10) of other patients who were identified as "at risk" were asked to notify the individuals, taking their personal circumstances into account.

Though there is at present no suitable blood test available, an estimate of the costs for applying such a test to all blood donations (about 2.5M per annum) has been calculated as between £20m and £33m per annum. However, it is difficult to provide any meaningful estimate of the cost of testing just those designated "at risk" because the circumstances of testing would be different, requiring a dedicated infrastructure to deal with smaller numbers for a discrete purpose. The levels of specificity and sensitivity of tests currently being assessed are unlikely to give a good predictive estimate of whether or not any individual in the "at risk" group is infected or not.

Written Answer

PQ247050 2008/2009

SI/52/53
Han Ref: Vol

Col

Jenny

411
~~Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central)~~ To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what the estimated cost is of testing for vCJD all those considered potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247050]

412
~~Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central)~~ To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of those considered to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS have been informed of their at risk status; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247051]

413
~~Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central)~~ To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many haemophiliacs are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247052]

414
~~Jennifer Willott MP (Cardiff Central)~~ To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [PQ247053]

SUGGESTED REPLY

4,000
4,000 ^{Confirmed by} **GRO-C**
There are between 4,000 and 5,000 people, mostly haemophiliacs, currently considered at risk of vCJD because of exposure or potential exposure via blood products. The haemophiliacs have been informed of their risk status by the haemophilia doctors managing their care, and the GPs of those who are not haemophiliacs have been informed of the need to advise their patients appropriately. The cost of testing this group, should suitable tests become available, has not been estimated.

variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS UNIT
FINAL MINUTE

To Parliamentary Relations Unit:

I confirm that the attached suggested reply
has been drafted in accordance with the
Departmental guidance. Drafted by:

Name	<i>Mark Noterman</i>	Building	<i>WEL</i>
		Room	<i>530</i>
Branch	<i>Infectious Disease and Blood Policy</i>	Ext	GRO-C
		Date	<i>19 January 2009</i>

I confirm that the attached suggested
answer has been approved in
accordance with the Departmental
guidance. Approved by (a member of
the SCS):

Name	<i>Ailsa Wight</i>	Ext	GRO-C
Room	<i>524</i>	Building	<i>WEL</i>
		Date	<i>19 January 2009</i>

3. The following special points should be noted:

This PQ covers replies to four PQs: PQ247050,
PQ247051, PQ247052 and PQ247053.