



"Update from DH"

Document Type:	Formal
File Title:	GHP - Blood Policy - Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) - General - *
File Reference:	GHP/005/018/001/001 Vol 9
Protective Marking:	No Marking
Filed by:	Michael Rogers/OIS/DOH on 11/03/2009 at 15:31
Created by:	Rowena Jecock on 20/02/2009 at 16:48

Named Security Prior To Moving To Archive:

Who can edit?	Nobody
Who has edited?	Michael Rogers/OIS/DOH
Who can read?	All readers of the document database

Modification History Prior To Moving To Archive:

Modified Date and Time	Details
18/08/2009 15:04	Modified registered file
08/02/2012 14:44	Refiled from GHP/005/018/001/001 Vol 5 to GHP/005/018/001/001 Vol 9

Rowena
Jecock/PH6/DOH/GB
20/02/2009 16:46

To "John Forsythe" <John.Forsythe@GRO-C>
cc "Dr Mike Rogers" <michael.rogers@GRO-C>
bcc
Subject Update from DH

Dear John,

I do hope you had an enjoyable break, and are ready for the fray! There is much to update you on.

1. SaBTO - outstanding actions

Draft letters are ready for you to consider re access to human vCJD samples for screening test assessment, and re speeding up generation of safety data from prion filter clinical trials. I can't send these via blackberry, but Mike is back on Monday, so will be able to send them to you then.

Mike will also be able to progress minutes and pub summary next week.

2. Haemophilia patients notification exercise

You will probably have seen the key points of this already in emails that were sent to SaBTO members last week.

The autopsy finding of abnormal prion protein in a haemophiliac was leaked last Sunday in the Telegraph. Our press office did all it could to dissuade the paper from publishing ahead of patients being informed. However, we were unsuccessful. Consequently, every effort was made by the HPA and the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation to inform haemophilia clinicians on Monday; our minister wrote personally to the Haemophilia Society the same day, and HPA issued their press notice on Tuesday. I attach a link to the HPA press notice.

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1234859690542?p=1231252394302

There has subsequently been less coverage by the media than we might have expected. Patients are being contacted by their doctors, although I expect this will take some time to complete. I am meeting with the CE of the Haemophilia Society next week, so will get more feedback then.

3. Publication of the report of the Archer Inquiry

The report of Lord Archer's independent inquiry into contaminated blood/blood products is being published on Monday 23 Feb at 10.30.

We have already alerted SaBTO members to the possibility that they may be approached by the media, and have recommended that all media enquiries are referred to the Department of Health. We have asked to be notified of any media requests that members receive. We are considering, together with NHSBT, whether to ask Richard Tedder to be prepared to speak to the press to explain how the science of testing has developed over the past 20 years, and that blood/blood products are a great deal safer today. If this goes ahead, Richard would be asked to speak in his expert capacity, and not as a member of SaBTO. We do not intend to get drawn into premature speculation on how we might respond to any recommendations the report makes. I will let you know more as this develops.

4. The Penrose Inquiry

We have provided SaBTO members with a link to the Penrose Inquiry website, as there may be some members who are less aware of the specifics of that inquiry.

5. Publication on DH website of a report that considers the implications of vCJD screening.

I'm glad we've managed to get this report into the public domain, as it should help stimulate debate on some of the issues around testing. We have sent the link to SaBTO members so they are aware.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094804

Congratulations due as well! We heard that you have been appointed as national lead transplant surgeon for Scotland by the Scottish Govt.

Mike and/or I will keep you in touch with developments on the 'hot topics'. Do let us know if you'd like any specific info.

Sorry for length of email.
Best wishes,
Rowena

Message sent from a Blackberry handheld device.