



07 December 1998

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»
«addr1»
«addr2»
«addr3»
«addr4»

Dear «Title» «LastName»

Re: Anti-D donations

I am writing to update you about the situation with regard to your anti-D plasma donations.

As you will be aware, the Department of Health announced in May that, because there is a theoretical risk that new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD) could be passed on through blood or blood products, plasma for processing into blood products should be imported from countries which have not had any cases of nvCJD. Products made from UK plasma could continue to be prescribed by doctors until alternative supplies become available.

We have now been informed that, because of a world-wide shortage of anti-D plasma, it will be some months before alternative sources are available for the production of anti-D immunoglobulin. In the light of this advice, there is no doubt that we shall continue to need your regular donations and I hope very much that we may count on your support for the foreseeable future.

The risk of transmission of nvCJD by blood or blood products, and anti-D in particular, remains theoretical, ie there have been no cases associated with transfusion and no evidence to confirm whether or not human to human transmission by blood can occur. There has been a lot of media coverage with regard to this issue and I would like to reassure you that we have continued to use your plasma for the production of anti-D immunoglobulin. As you know, anti-D is essential for the prevention of haemolytic disease of the new-born. Without your invaluable donations, there could be as many as 500-600 infant deaths each year in the UK from rhesus haemolytic disease. Research work is continuing to develop a test for nvCJD and to determine whether the manufacturing processes used in the preparation of blood products make them safe. We shall keep you informed of further developments as they occur.

As a token of our appreciation for your continued support of the Blood Service, and for your forbearance, please find enclosed a little gift for your use during the festive season.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Yours sincerely

Dr S Seteviratne
Associate Specialist

Enc.

Part of the National Blood Authority



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TOTAL P.02