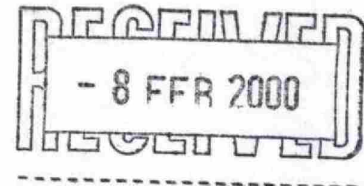


PEH/mm/CJD

31 January 2000

Dr W M McClelland
Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
Belfast City Hospital Complex
Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 7TS

**STRICTLY PRIVATE
AND CONFIDENTIAL**



Dear Morris

Management of potential donors known to have received blood from people subsequently shown to have developed variant CJD

I have been asked to write to you by Dr. Angela Robinson. The NBS has received instructions from the NHSE (Dr. Mike McGovern) that the NBS should take steps to ensure that blood donations from individuals who had been recipients of donations from donors subsequently shown to have developed variant CJD should not enter the blood supply. The NBS has therefore entered the details of these individuals on the donor databases and flagged the records so that no blood originating from these individuals can be issued for use. It has been agreed that a protocol for dealing with these cases must be developed, and this is being taken up by the expert group on the management of CJD incidents which had its first meeting on the 25th January under the chairmanship of Professor Don Jeffries. Until that group has considered the issues and given advice, the NBS has been asked by the Department of Health to not take any further action with respect to these individuals but to consult the Department if any present as blood donors.

The NHSE's letter has been passed to colleagues in all 4 UK countries, and you may already have had discussions on this subject. I have been formally asked to pass you the names of the English recipients who are in the age range to present as blood donors. We know nothing of their eligibility to donate, other than their age. We have taken no action with respect to those recipients who are known to be ineligible to donate by virtue of their date of birth. I have been asked by Dr. Robinson to ask whether you would provide equivalent information for any recipients who have been identified in your country, so that there can be uniformity of action throughout the UK.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Patricia/E Hewitt
Lead Consultant in Transfusion Microbiology

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