

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr H L Lloyd  
cc: Mr R Masterman

FROM: Dr R W Doughty

SUBJECT: HCV TESTING

DATE: 15 March 1991

✓  
File HCV

It would seem realistic to have a target date of 1 May, 1991, to institute HCV testing.

The cost to be distributed per test on all blood components is £2.30, which is £2.25 cost of test kit, and 5p for other marginal costs. Abbott should have a two bead confirmatory test available in approximately four to six weeks, price £12 plus controls. A matrix test for HCV as part of the Commander will be available shortly, but this may be blocked by legal action from Chiron, until the end of the year. It is difficult to assess the cost of confirming positives externally as it would appear that Newcastle Public Health Laboratories are not yet in a position to offer this service and we may need to send samples to Colindale Central Public Health Laboratories for confirmation.

Mr Mike Brittain has already incorporated the software into the Novell Network system though this has yet to be tested. Mrs Ashford informs me that at the present we are holding relatively low stocks of frozen products and therefore we should have a relatively short period of five to six weeks where we are holding stocks with mixtures of HCV and non-HCV tested components.

I have also intimated to Abbott on a confidential basis, that this is our likely start date. They have said they should be able to start shipping material by 20 April, which would give us one week in which to run some trials before starting on 1 May. Because of the lack of positive material, both here and at Newcastle PHLS, a limited validation using Abbott positive samples will have to be run.

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