


Neil Townley

08/09/2004 10:37

To: Michael Clarke/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C Helena
Feinstein/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C Gerard
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cc: Ailsa Wight/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C Alison
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Subject: Re: patient notification WMS handling 

1. This is what the WMS looks like:



blood donation and vCJD.doc

I've used the title Hansard gave it last time - "blood donations and vCJD".

2. In the letter to Lansley/Burstow, there's a para. about what happens next:

"In the light of these assessments, the HPA is now initiating a process to notify patients of these developments. The HPA are sending information to clinicians to enable them to trace particular plasma products. The clinicians will then notify any patients identified as 'at risk' as a precaution for public health purposes. Patients should expect to receive this notification on 21 or 22 September."

We should incorporate the substance of the media line ("It would be grossly unfair on the patients involved to discuss the results of the risk assessment exercise in the media before patients are informed of the outcome. A full public statement will be made at the appropriate time") into this. That's the thing that will guard us against an Urgent Question.

3. After tomorrow, we can expect to get PQs about this, asking for the sort of details we intend to release later this month. Rather than not answer these PQs until after CMO's press conference, we could give them a standard reply, along the lines of the media line, ie.:

"Further details about the risk assessment exercise will not be disclosed until after patients are informed of the outcome".

We only need to do it once, and then we can refer all other questions to this answer.

4. On that note, I don't think we need the final para ("I will make a further statement at a later date, if necessary") of the WMS, as that's a given. But it would be useful to say, possibly at the end, that "further details about the risk assessment exercise will not be disclosed until after patients are informed of the outcome."

Michael Clarke

Michael Clarke
07/09/2004 22:34

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bates, paul corrigan, richard olszewski, ailsa wight
bcc:
Subject: patient notification WMS handling

Helena,

As discussed please find attached a handling plan for the proposed WMS on vCJD, including a draft WMS and PN. Thanks to Gerard for doing the WMS.

For info to earlier recipients of Gerard's draft WMS - the changes I propose are in track changes - to summarise they are (a) referring to 'other patients' rather than 'many more'; (b) removing the penultimate para referring to public concern and the helpline, as the helpline is not running yet and (c) changing the date to simply 'later this month' in order to retain some freedom of manoeuvre.



WMS handling.doc

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