

From: Sandra Falconer  
Ext **GRO-C**  
1 November 2002

1. Deputy Minister (McAveety) for Health and Community Care
2. Minister for Health and Community Care

Copy to: Deputy Minister (Mulligan) for Health and Community Care  
PS/HD  
Mr Robson  
CMO  
Dr Keel  
Dr Christie  
Mr Macleod  
Charles Lister DH(E)  
Philippa Edwards DH(E)  
Press Health  
Policy Unit

## **SNBTS FACTOR VIII AND FACTOR IX – DONORS WHO LATER DEVELOPED vCJD - NOTIFICATION STRATEGY**

### **Purpose**

1. To make Ministers aware that Scottish Haemophilia Directors have decided to write to haemophilia patients asking them whether they wish to know if they were exposed to a batch of Factor VIII or Factor IX clotting agent derived from a patient who subsequently developed vCJD.

### **Timing**

2. **Routine** for information only. We understand that the letter will be issued to patients by first class post tomorrow.

### **Background**

3. Plasma from a blood donor who subsequently developed vCJD was used to manufacture SNBTS Factor VIII and Factor IX clotting agents and some other products between 1987 and 1989. All of these products would have been used before the end of 1991.
4. SNBTS notified haemophilia directors in Scotland of this in November 2001 and at the same time submitted details of the incident to the CJD Incident Panel (Chaired by Professor Michael Banner) for guidance on how this incident should be handled.
5. In the absence of advice to date from the Committee the Haemophilia Directors have decided to proceed to circulate information to their patients offering an appropriate appointment to discuss this further with them.

6. There was a similar incident involving products manufactured by the Bioproducts Laboratory (BPL) in England last year where BPL issued letters to patients and customers. This did not attract a lot of interest from patients in Scotland.

#### **Presentation and Handling**

7. UK Haemophilia Directors are meeting with the Haemophilia Society on Monday (4 November). vCJD is on the agenda and it is likely that the SNBTS incident will be raised. In recognition of the fact that patients need to be informed in advance of any more public discussion of the issue, Scottish Haemophilia Directors have agreed to write to patients over the weekend.

8. SNBTS has prepared a briefing statement which has been copied to Press Health with contact details for media enquiries. Press Health is in the process of developing a Press statement for use over the weekend.

#### **Recommendation**

9. That Ministers note the content of this minute.

SANDRA FALCONER (MRS)

HPQ

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