

Charles Lister
26/11/2001 14:52

Sent by: Charles Lister/HSD2

To: Jane Colman/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: Mary Agnew/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C
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Mary O'Mahony/PH6/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Alex Ross/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C
Rachel Clinton/COMMS/DOH/GB@GRO-C
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Subject: Blood supplies

Jane

There is not a shortage of blood currently. In fact blood stocks have been very healthy from some months, averaging around 4 days supply ready for issue plus a further 2 days supply in processing. Higher stock levels than this would increase the risk of wastage. NHS Trusts are continuing to receive all the blood they need.

The article and editorial in The Sunday Express and the comments from Dai Havard MP are built on a misunderstanding. NBA have been scenario planning around the risks associated with a vCJD screening test when one is developed (perhaps 3-5 years away but maybe sooner). One of the scenarios they considered was a loss of up to 50% of blood donors (worse case) who might stop giving because of fears about what the test might reveal.

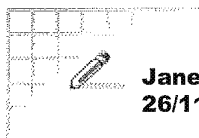
This is not a new story. It was covered in The Guardian on 2 October but more responsibly - they had also taken the trouble to talk to NBS (copy of article attached). It was also picked up Newsnight in September.

NBA also launched their new blood donor campaign today which has had high media profile.

We are providing PMQ briefing for tomorrow. Let me know if you need anything further.

Charles

----- Forwarded by Charles Lister/HSD2/DOH/GB on 26/11/2001 13:56 -----



Jane Colman
26/11/2001 10:48

Sent by: Jane Colman/PR-OFF

To: Charles Lister/HSD2/DOH/GB@GRO-C
cc: Mary Agnew/PR-OFF/DOH/GB@GRO-C

Subject: Blood supplies

Charles

In light of the recent publicity around blood supplies and vCJD, MS(H) has asked for an urgent note setting out:

- i) what current stocks are available to trusts?
- ii) what is the perceived threat to suppliers - do we anticipate a decrease in stocks?

Grateful for this asap - is cop today manageable?

Sorry to be brief, bit busy this morning. Please ring this aft if I need to clarify this request.

Jane