File - blood

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Dr Jeremy Metters

Mike McGovern

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Copies
Professor Donaldson
David Hewlett
Ailsa Wight
Andre Hare
Laurence Knight
Charles Lister
Peter Jones
Gwen Skinner

The FDA, CJD and possible deferral of US blood donors visiting or resident in the UK. Request from US officials for sight of the Department's work on risk of nvCJD from blood and blood products.

1. You will be aware that the FDA's group on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee is considering what advice it should give to their Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability. The TSEAC meets 2/3 June to consider the issue and are currently doing a survey of the travel patterns of US donors to inform their advice and assess the impact of this on availability of blood. The survey questionnaire is attached. Also attached is a notice of an April29/30 meeting which will not consider TSE.

2. FDA officials are aware of the UK work on risk from EOR are have asked for sight of it to inform the 2/3 June meeting. Philip Comer has been invited to address the meeting on the Det Norske Veritas risk assessment, Roy Anderson's group have also been asked to present, I presume, on projections and the St Mary's group on the science.. I am not sure whether we are prepared or committed to publish the EOR work but the FDA might yet approach the Department for a presenter -to complement the DNV work.

3. This purpose of this note is therefore twofold

a) early warning of almost certain advice to the FDA in June on deferral of certain groups of donors with a history of UK travel or residence -which the Canadians are also likely to adopt and

b) advice on whether we are prepared to release the EOR work to the FDA or send someone to present the work, if approached (recognising that their meetings are in public and papers and advice published on the Internet).

GRO-C

Dr Mike McGovern

Health Services Directorate