

AN BORD SEIRBHÍSE FUILAISTRIÚCHÁIN
THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE BOARD

PELICAN HOUSE

P.O. BOX 97, 40 MESPII. ROAD, DUBLIN 4 - TELEPHONE: (01) 660 3333 - TELEGRAMS: BLOODBANK DUBLIN - FAX: (01) 660 3419

CORK CENTRE

AT ST. FINBARR'S HOSPITAL, DOUGLAS ROAD, CORK - TELEPHONE: (021) 968799 - TELEGRAMS: BLOODBANK CORK

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Y. KEYES, F.C.C.A., D.L.A.

CHIEF MED. CONSULTANT: DR. T. J. WALSH, M.B., FRCPATH., FFPATH., RCPI.

YOUR REF.

23 March 1994.

BTSD REF.

Subject: Anti-D Immunoglobulin and Hepatitis C

Dear Colleague,

This is to advise that an outbreak of Hepatitis C has been identified in recipients of Anti-D immunoglobulin in Ireland. The product used was prepared by a column chromatographic method followed by ethanol precipitation and was suitable for intravenous use. It has now been established that plasma from an infected source was used in production of Anti-D issued during 1977. The product was withdrawn from use in February 1994 and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Board (BTSB) initiated a mass screening programme for all recipients of Anti-D in Ireland from 1970 to the present time. The BTSB would appreciate the co-operation of colleagues in other countries in providing testing for HCV antibody for any women who would have received Anti-D in Ireland between 1970 and the end of February 1994. The Board would also appreciate notification of the results of any such tests.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

T.J. Walsh, MB, FRCPATH.,
Chief Medical Consultant.