



North Western Regional Health Authority

Gateway House Piccadilly South Manchester M60 7LP

Chairman: Sir John Page, O.B.E. General Manager: G.J. Greenshields, B.A., M.Litt., I.P.F.A., M.B.M.

Tel. 061 236 9456 Ext.

Your ref: BGL/CB/4/111/23
Our ref:

Please Mr. B. Lomas
ask for

Date: 11th September, 1986

Dear Dr. Moore,

HTLV III Antibody Testing of Blood Donations Outside the National Blood Transfusion Service

I refer to my previous letter, dated 20th February, 1986, regarding the above and apologise for the delay in providing additional information. Of the nineteen District Health Authorities in the North Western Region, only three collect blood donations outside the National Blood Transfusion Service. Details are given below.

Trafford Health Authority

On rare occasions the Consultant Paediatricians at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, have found it necessary to take blood from members of staff to administer to new born infants. However, the Consultant Haematologist is discussing this matter with the Paediatricians and is confident that he can persuade them to use National Blood Transfusion Service donations in almost all situations.

Similarly, the Health Authority have indicated that if it should prove necessary to obtain a donation from a member of staff, an attempt would be made to use a regular blood donor who would undergo screening for HTLV III antibody. In exceptional cases, where this is not possible, a sample would be retained for retrospective screening.

Central Manchester Health Authority

A "walk-in" donor panel is used on the Special Care Baby Unit at Saint Mary's Hospital. However, the use of donors has reduced drastically as alternative blood products have become available. Emergencies do occasionally occur which require fresh blood and only in these life saving situations would donor blood be used.

Donors are not screened for AIDS but the doctors involved accept personal responsibility for this. Their attention has been drawn to the AIDS leaflet which can be obtained from the Regional Transfusion Centre.

It has also been discovered that bloods are collected from staff in the tissue typing department of Medical Genetics. These are used to screen serum from kidney transplant patients and the service could not exist if this was not done. Again donors are not tested for AIDS.

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Salford Health Authority

There is a very limited use of "walk-in" donors in Hope Hospital in the Special Care Baby Unit. The donor panels are members of the junior medical staff who give small quantities of blood in extreme emergencies. The donations concerned are not HTLV III antibody tested and there is no means of doing this in Salford District.

The District General Manager has spoken personally to the Consultant Paediatrician under whose clinical guidance the donations are made and subsequently used and he is fully aware of the implications of the HTLV III antibody issue. I am informed that the use of such donors is done on a very small scale and only in extreme emergencies. Active consideration is being given to alternative methods whereby the problem can be circumvented.

I understand from the Director of the Regional Blood Transfusion Service that after consultations with Central Manchester and Salford Health Authorities the BTS are now supplying by far the majority of the blood used in these circumstances.

Replies are still outstanding from two Health Authorities on this matter and I shall, of course, forward details of their responses should they highlight any other instances of blood being collected outside the NBTS without being tested for the HTLV III antibody.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C: S Ellis

JS Assistant General Manager
(Policy Implementation and Administration)

Dr. R.J. Moore,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Hannibal House,
Elephant and Castle,
London.
SE1 6TE