



# The Haemophilia Society

129

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22 May 1989

Dr C R Rizza MD FRCP  
Oxford Haemophilia Centre  
The Churchill Hospital  
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Dear Dr Rizza,

I have learned recently that patients with haemophilia attending Raigmore Hospital in Inverness and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary are not necessarily being advised of their HIV status. This came to light recently when a boy of 14 was suddenly told of his HIV antibody status - his parents having assumed, and the lack of any information to the contrary, that he was negative. I also understand that there are two patients at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where there was a long delay in giving the information to the patients or their families.

I wondered whether the Centre Directors Organisation has a policy on this matter which could be re-circulated to all Centre Directors with some force. It is all too easy to allow those things to drift along and suddenly find that you have got a sexually active 16 or 17 year old who behaves in total ignorance of his antibody status. One of the problems is, of course, that where there is more than one doctor involved there are times when their policy differs.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me but I would be grateful if you could let me know whether or not you intend to do anything about it.

With warmest best wishes

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

David G Watters  
General Secretary