



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Home and Health Department

SOHHD/CAMO(92)2

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TO: DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC HEALTH/CAMOS

21 April 1992

Dear Doctor

SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL AID TO PEOPLE INFECTED WITH HIV AS A RESULT OF BLOOD TRANSFUSION OR TISSUE TRANSFER

On 17 February 1992 the Secretary of State announced that the special payments available to those with haemophilia and HIV were to be extended to others infected with HIV as a result of blood transfusion or tissue transfer. Details of the scheme have now been finalised in consultation with the Department's legal advisers, the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) and others closely involved: a copy is attached for you. General Managers will also receive details of the scheme with their copy of this letter.

The intention is to publicise the scheme and invite applications by, or on behalf of, those eligible for financial assistance under the terms of the proposed scheme. Application forms can be obtained from either Mr R Panton or Mr D Hogg, Room 279 St Andrew's House (Ext **GRO-C** or **GRO-C**). Each application will need to be supported by a clinician.

We understand that the SNBTS has already tried to inform consultants of any transfused donations that might have been at risk of transmitting HIV. But to ensure that no beneficiary is overlooked I would be grateful if consultants could also be asked to consider whether they have any patients who are HIV positive as a result of blood transfusion or organ or tissue transfer. I appreciate the need to ensure that the medical confidentiality of patients is maintained and that there may be some instances where it is not considered to be in the best interests of the patient to be aware of all the details of a particular medical condition at this time. The scheme will therefore ensure that entitlement to payment is not affected by any delays in lodging claims that may result in such instances.

Any medical enquiries relating to this matter should be addressed to Dr A Keel (**GRO-C**) at this address.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

R KENDELL

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SCHEME FOR PAYMENTS TO PERSONS WITH HIV AS A RESULT OF INFECTED BLOOD TRANSFUSION OR TISSUE TRANSFER

The Scottish Office Home and Health Department have prepared a scheme for payments to individuals who have HIV as a result of blood transfusions, tissue transfers or treatment with blood products provided by the NHS. The scheme sets out the persons to whom the payments will be made, the amounts, the conditions applying and undertakings to be given together with the procedures for submission and consideration of claims. Those individuals who consider themselves eligible are now invited to apply for payment.

Copies of the scheme and application forms can be obtained from the Scottish Office Home and Health Department, Room 260, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh.

Under the scheme a Panel has been set up to consider and advise the Secretary of State on claims which are the subject of any dispute. The Panel will be under the Chairmanship of Mr T G Coutts QC and the other members of the panel are Professor J G Collee recently Professor of Bacteriology at Edinburgh University and Dr G A MacDonald retired Consultant in Haematology at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

G W TUCKER
Assistant Secretary
Scottish Office Home and Health Dept

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