

From: Gail Williams (GAW)
To: jaf,pat,chd,mam,bah,caj,roh,tib
Date: Thursday 12 January, 1995 4:56pm
Subject: HCV LOOKBACK

Following the Parliamentary question raised yesterday and the Department of Health's statement that a lookback should be instigated for potential patients who have received blood now known to be infected with HCV, the following is what has happened so far:-

1. Press statements were given by myself and Dr Deirdre Hine to the local media during the afternoon of Wednesday 11 January 1995.
2. The National helpline is available to everyone in the United Kingdom including those in Wales.
3. Today Paul, myself and Tony have taken a number of calls from worried donors and GPs.
4. Information letters to GPs and relevant Hospital Consultants are in the post from Dr Deirdre Hine's department.
5. We have issued a single sheet of information to all staff regarding this topic.
6. We have faxed this afternoon (12.1.95.) an information sheet to Hospital Consultants to aid them until the official letter comes from Dr Hine's department.
7. A working party has been set up to draw up detailed guidance as to how the lookback procedure is to take place.
8. In the meantime, I have asked Paul to begin the process by drawing together our internal information regarding potential donors affected and the hospitals to which their donations were sent, on an annual basis going back from September 1991. This will mean that as and when the detailed guidance is received, we shall be ready to proceed.
9. Nothing further can therefore be done until such time as these guidance documents are sent out but I would reiterate that any donors or patients or anyone else telephoning to ask about this should be advised to telephone the helpline number or, if they are distressed, they can be referred to either myself, Tony or Paul.

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.