

SPAC



## THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

## Home and Health Department

Dear Doctor

**HEPATITIS C (HCV) AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION  
LOOK BACK**

I am sending this letter to inform you of the guidance and procedures for the look-back exercise announced by Mr Sackville, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, on 11 January 1995, to trace, counsel and, if necessary, treat people who may have been infected with HCV through blood transfusions.

Many of you will have received information in January 1995 about the Government's announcement of the look back exercise.

I am asking for your help in identifying patients who may have been infected with HCV through blood transfusion. This will mainly concern hospital consultants in a number of specialties, those working in blood transfusion centres, and general practitioners. I am sure that your patients will appreciate your efforts on their behalf.

An ad hoc Working Party of experts has now drawn up guidance on the procedures for undertaking the look back exercise and for counselling those identified as being at risk, as well as guidance on the treatment options available.

The guidance and procedures are set out in the Annexes:

- \* Guidance on the look back procedures - Annex A
- \* Guidance on counselling and treatment options - Annex B

It is important that all testing to determine a patient's HCV status is undertaken by diagnostic microbiology laboratories capable of performing confirmatory testing, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR), where appropriate.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

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**For action**

- All Doctors

**For information**

- General Managers
- Chief Executives, NHS Trusts

**Further enquiries**

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