



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

To: Regional Health Authorities )  
Special Health Authorities for the ) for action  
London Postgraduate Teaching Hospitals )

January 1985

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT

LEAFLET: 'AIDS - IMPORTANT NEW ADVICE FOR BLOOD DONORS'

SUMMARY

1. This Circular asks Regional Health Authorities to ensure that the revised leaflet 'AIDS - important new advice for blood donors' is distributed individually to every blood donor.

BACKGROUND

2. The first edition of this leaflet then entitled 'AIDS and how it concerns blood donors' was distributed to Regional Transfusion Centres (RTCs) in September 1983; Regional Transfusion Directors used their discretion in how they distributed the leaflet. Some RTCs sent it to individual donors with their call-up requests, others handed the leaflet to each donor on arrival at the sessions, whilst others made the leaflet available at sessions, to be picked up as donors wished.
3. The leaflet has now been revised, most significantly in extending the high-risk groups who should not donate blood, and the opportunity has been taken to amend the layout and update factual matters. Any copies of the 1983 edition still held should not be used, but should be destroyed.

REVISED DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS

4. Ministers have decided that it is essential that the revised leaflet be brought to the attention of each donor on an individual basis. This would normally be achieved by sending each donor a copy of the leaflet with his next call-up notification. It is realised that this may not be practicable for industrial sessions (or for new donors presenting at sessions) - in these cases alternative arrangements should be made to ensure that each donor is individually given the leaflet before any blood is taken. Displays of leaflets, whilst continuing to be useful, will not meet these new distribution requirements. Because the advice has changed significantly, the revised leaflet should be sent even to those who received the 1983 version.

COST IMPLICATIONS

5. The Department is meeting the cost of printing the revised leaflet. It is realised that there are resource implications in distribution, postage etc. for the Regional Transfusion Centres, but these will have to be found from within existing RHA funding. RHAs are also reminded that their arrangements should include any establishments outside the National Blood Transfusion Service, eg. platelet panels, whole blood panels for cardiac surgery and other needs in certain hospitals.

STOCKS OF LEAFLETS

6. Supplies of leaflets will be sent directly to RTCs; other needs within the Region should be requisitioned from RTCs. Further stocks of the leaflet can be obtained from DHSS Leaflets Unit (Canons Park) in the usual way. Supplies of leaflets are also being sent direct to Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinics.

**ACTION**

**7. RHAs should:**

(i) ensure that RTCs take action as at paragraph 4 above;

RHAs and SHAs should:

(ii) identify establishments outside the NBTS where similar action should be taken.

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