



National Blood Transfusion Service

Regional Transfusion Centre



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Our Ref.

Your Ref.

XTD^1221/HLL/pk

2nd May 1991

TO ALL DIRECTORS OF TRANSFUSION SERVICES

cc Dr H H Gunson ✓
Professor J D Cash



Dear *Dr Gunson*

Re: **Hepatitis C Testing**

As you know there was a date of 1st July set for Hepatitis C Antibody testing. Fairly recently this was changed with a provisional date set for September 1991.

In view of the fact that we were already set up for testing, I have decided to keep to the July date. By 1st July, all units of blood for transfusion in the Northern Region will be negative for Hepatitis C antibody.

My personal view is that not to test now that we have the ability to test would be indefensible under the current Product Liability Legislation. I appreciate that individual Directors may take a different view on the potential liability under the Consumer Protection Act, but the fact that this Centre is testing, should not materially alter that judgement.

I would be interested to know if any Centre is currently carrying out any additional tests such as Hepatitis B core testing or ALT testing and if so, what criteria are being used to select donors/samples for testing.

Yours sincerely



H L Lloyd
Director/General Manager

HHG 5/16