

NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE NBTS

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Regional Transfusion Directors  
- England and Wales

From: Dr. H.H. Gunson

Date: 22nd January 1991

Ref: HHG/LB

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ANTI-HCV TESTING OF BLOOD DONATIONS

1. The Department of Health have agreed that routine testing of all blood donations for anti-HCV can be put into operation.
2. I have been asked to try and ensure that testing starts simultaneously in RTCs in England and Wales and that it is co-ordinated with commencement of testing in Scotland.
3. Will you please advise me what you consider to be the earliest date that you could commence testing. It would be helpful if I could have this response by **Tuesday 29th January**.
4. Financial arrangements to cover routine screening and supplementary tests have still to be concluded and I will advise of these at a later date.
5. The U.K. Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases has met and have put forward proposals for a protocol for carrying out the tests. These will have to be put to the DH at a meeting scheduled for 25th February. When the minutes of our meeting have been agreed by the members I will circulate them for comments.
6. I will inform Ortho and Abbott that routine screening for anti-HCV has been approved and that we will inform them of the starting date in due course.

GRO-C

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

c.c. Prof. J.D. Cash - Scotland

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