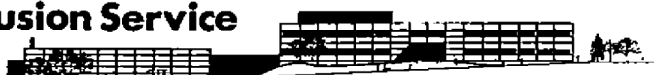




Northern Regional Health Authority

National Blood Transfusion Service

Regional Transfusion Centre



Holland Drive, Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4NQ

Telephone (091) 261 1711
Fax (091) 232 4554

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

GRO-C

H L Lloyd
Director/General Manager

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