

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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HHG/LB

15th February 1991

SAME LETTER TO: All RTDs - England and Wales

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Dear

I enclose a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on Friday 1st February 1991, together with copies of the following papers which may help you in following the minutes.

1. Regional Blood Transfusion Committees
- survey of RTCs NMC 1/91
2. Notes of a meeting held with
representatives of the National
Association of Blood Donors NMC 2/91
Report by NABD for their Newsletter NMC 3/91
3. Policy on Donors between 65 and 70 years NMC 4/91
4. AIDS Leaflet - discussion document NMC 6/91
5. Disposal of time-expired red cells NMC 8/91
6. National meeting of RDOs and DSMs NMC 13/91
7. Automation Users Group -
meeting of 17th October 1990 NMC 14/91

In addition I enclose copies of the following:

8. Minutes of the meeting of the NBTS/CBLA Liaison
Committee held on 16th January 1991.

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9. A report on the comparison of anti-HCV tests using the Abbott and Ortho test kits.

It should be recognised that this trial was performed using 1st generation anti-HCV tests from both Abbott and Ortho. Work is now proceeding on tests which have been developed since then and there are some indications that these will give greater specificity. Most of this report details the work carried out at the three RTCs since I have received only the briefest report on the subsequent tests on the repeatable positives by the three specialist laboratories.

10. Minutes of the meeting of the U.K. Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases. These contain recommendations for the procedures concerning anti-HCV testing. You will note that some matters are not yet resolved and these matters will be considered at the next meeting on 25th March.

I have now been able to speak to all RTCs and an agreed date for commencement for anti-HCV screening of 1st July 1991 has emerged. This, of course, will be dependent upon a reasonably normal blood collection pattern at that time since if the later is still disrupted by affairs in the Gulf we may have to reconsider the date.

11. I have received the enclosed letter from Kemble Instrument Company.

If you have any queries concerning the enclosures please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

H.H. GUNSON,
National Director

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