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Ref: DCM010e

Dr Metters (o/r)

From: Dr H Pickles MEDISPA

Date: 10 May 1991

cc: Mr Barton MDD
Dr Rejman MEDISPA
Mr Canavan EHF1A
Mr M Fuller MDD

HCV TESTING: MULTICENTRE TRIAL

1. You will be aware of problems raised by the premature HCV testing being introduced in Northern Region.

Following discussion with Dr Gunson in your absence, I agreed that it would be sensible to present the testing as part of the multicentre trial of second generation tests. Dr Lloyd (Northern) is happy to pass on his results in this way and since he had made no arrangements for confirmatory testing, Dr Gunson has given him advice on this.

3. Dr Gunson has been in touch with Mr Fuller who has discussed with Mr Barton. I believe Mr Barton is awaiting your approval before allocating the modest funds required.

4. I hope you will be able to support this study. Since the last ACVSB meeting, we have discovered the first generation tests are no longer to be available. The second generation tests are not FDA approved, hence proper evaluation is vital.

5. We look like being on line for a 1 September start date. Since the scientific case for testing is rather less clear cut than when the decision to go for testing was made, this "delay" is quite excusable. We understand that Germany, for example, will be taking a year to introduce testing there.

6. Please give me or Dr Rejman a ring if you would like further background on this.

GRO-C

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