



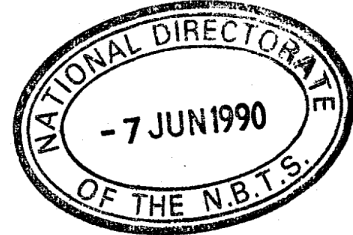
Dr. M CONTRERAS  
Director

# NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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PEH/mm

6th June 1990



Dr R J Moore  
Deputy National Director  
The National Directorate  
Gateway House  
Piccadilly South  
Manchester M60 7LP

Dear Roger

Marcela has asked me to reply to your fax of today's date regarding the further details requested by BPL on our J2/90 and J8/90 enquiries.

I have already written to David Donald today in reply to his letter of 31st May 1990, giving the further details BPL require on the two cases. I have also sent a copy to Harold - so you should see it tomorrow. I trust this letter will suffice!

Our only comment on the points you raised in your fax is that BPL still does not understand our procedure for jaundice enquiries.

We only report cases to BPL when we have assured ourselves that a report from a hospital concerning hepatitis in a transfusion recipient is likely to be associated with the transfusion. Thus, if more than 6 months has elapsed after transfusion before the development of hepatitis B, then we (not the clinicians) decide that transfusion is not responsible for the infection. We do not start an enquiry and do not notify BPL. For example, yesterday I received notification of a case where 10 months had elapsed. I have asked the hospital to clarify the dates given, and if they confirm these as true then there will be no enquiry and BPL will never know about it!

Secondly, we would never start a hepatitis B enquiry without serological confirmation of acute hepatitis B infection in the recipient (and preferably with evidence of seroconversion from a previous HBsAg negative status).

If we reported to BPL every case provisionally labelled as post-transfusion hepatitis on an initial telephone report from a

WTD/ 265

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hospital, then there would certainly be no finished product for BPL to issue. We pride ourselves on establishing the full background to the case before starting an enquiry and notifying BPL of possibly implicated plasma. This approach may, of course, lead to delays in some cases, as exemplified by J2/90, but we make great efforts to ensure that the hospitals reply promptly to our requests for further details.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Patricia Hewitt  
Deputy Director

WTD/ 266