



# NORTHERN REGION BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE



The Transfusion Centre  
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A CLINICAL AGENCY OF THE  
NORTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

XCH^3093/HLL/pl

8th November 1993

TO: All Consultant Haematologists  
Finance Managers  
Blood Transfusion Contract Holders

Dear Dr Hamilton

Re: **Hepatitis B Core Antibody Testing**

As you know, we included provision for Hepatitis B Core Antibody testing in this years Blood Transfusion Service Contracts. One Regional Transfusion Centre had started testing and there were clear indications that the U.K. would introduce this test to eliminate the small number of Hepatitis B transmissions by blood transfusion that occur due to a small group of individuals who are infectious but are negative for Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, for which we currently test.

At the beginning of this year we were asked not to start this test and to wait until the whole country started testing. We have now been informed that this test is not to be introduced, this instruction coming from the Department of Health. I am told that the decision was 'not taken lightly'.

Although the situation will be kept under review by the DOH, it will not now be introduced during 1993/94 and no doubt reasonable warning of it's introduction would be given if a decision was made to go that way.

It would now be safe for you to re-deploy the finance that you have reserved for this test for the remainder of 1993/94. I do not think that you need make any provision for 1994/95 for this test.

You may also find it useful to know that contracts will rise by about an additional 2% next year to pay for the new National Blood Authority. £90,000 (approx) will be made available to purchasers to compensate for this increase.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

H L Lloyd  
Chief Executive

WTD/ 2041