
Press release: reference 2003/0317



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Friday 29th August 2003

HEPATITIS C PAYMENT SCHEME ANNOUNCED

Health Secretary John Reid has decided to establish a financial assistance scheme for people infected with Hepatitis C as a result of being given blood products by the NHS.

Mr Reid said: 'After becoming Secretary of State, I looked at the history of this issue and decided on compassionate grounds that this is the right thing to do in this situation.'

'I have therefore decided in principle that English Hepatitis C sufferers should receive ex-gratia payments from the Department of Health.'

The details of the payments have yet to be worked out.

Notes to Editors:

For **media enquiries**, please contact: Michael Clarke or Rachel Clinton in the Department of Health Media Centre