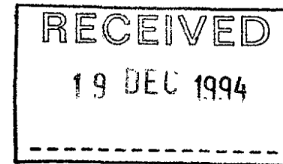


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To: Members of the MSBT

1. Following MSBT's meeting on 15 December, it would be helpful to have comments on the conclusions the Committee reached. These are set out in draft in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.
2. "Following discussion MSBT agreed their advice to Ministers as:
 - i. In MSBT's view there is a duty of care towards those infected with HCV as a result of NHS treatment. It follows that procedures should be put in place to identify those patients at risk;
 - ii. Whatever is done should be done equally and uniformly throughout the UK;
 - iii. Guidance should be drawn up as soon as possible:
 - a) on procedures for identifying those at risk, and
 - b) While it was for the medical practitioner responsible for each patient identified as at risk to decide what should be made known to the patient about his/her risk status, and to decide whether and what treatment should be advised, guidance on the counselling and treatment options would be desirable."
3. The Committee agreed that these conclusions would be passed on to the Secretaries of State of all four Health Departments. If Ministers wish, an ad hoc Working Party could be established drawn from the membership of the MSBT, and the Advisory Group on Hepatitis.
4. Members of the MSBT were reminded that they provide confidential advice to Ministers. Any enquiries about the Committee's conclusions or its work should be referred to the Departmental Press Officers.

GRO-C

Dr. D E BURRAGE
Secretary MSBT