



5th July 1995

Dr Sablinski  
Institute of Haematology  
Warsaw  
POLAND

Dear Dr Sablinski

IN January 1995 the Minister of Health in our country announced that a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Lookback programme should be undertaken.

This meant that throughout the UK Transfusion Service, the previous donations from all blood donors who were found to be anti-HCV positive when screening was first introduced in September 1991, were to be traced back to the recipients of these transfusions. All recipients of potentially anti-HCV positive blood donations in the UK are to be contacted, counselled, tested for the presence of anti-HCV and referred if necessary to a liver specialist unit for further investigation, follow up or treatment with interferon if necessary. This exercise is now underway and unfortunately I have established that one of these "Lookback" donations was sent as part of an humanitarian aid shipment to your institute on 7th March 1991.

The implicated donation number was 6407986 (BRh(D) positive, expiry date 27.03.91). The airway bill number was 08002275486.

I am sorry that by unlucky chance your institute received this donation and I leave it to your clinical discretion as to whether you wish to follow up on this information or not. My understanding is that only the UK and Holland have so far instituted an HCV Lookback programme and it is an extremely difficult exercise to undertaken unless Transfusion Centre and Hospital Blood Bank records are reasonably well kept. I am already aware that in our country it will not be possible to trace every recipient because of some missing records.

I apologise again for having to give you this information and any difficulties it may cause, but any further action you may or may not wish to take, I leave entirely at your discretion.

Should you wish to have any further information from my Service please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

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