

Look back M&ST mty

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East Anglian Blood Transfusion Centre

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Our ref: LW/cmh

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
(1 page only)

9th May 1995

Dr. Angela Robinson,
Medical Director,
National Blood Authority,
Oak House,
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Watford. WD1 1QH

Fax No. GRO-C

Dear Angela,

HCV LOOK BACK

It is becoming apparent that hospitals are finding it difficult to establish cause of death for patients in the Look Back exercise. Hospital computers can readily tell them that the patient has died, and in some cases provide the GPs name and address, but cause of death requires retrieval of case notes, which is a much more labour intensive, time consuming and costly exercise. We have said that if we are provided with a GPs name and address we can make contact with a GP to establish cause of death but some forms have come back without even this basic information.

Before going back to the hospitals, I write to seek clarification of how important it is that cause of death be notified on all the forms? I can imagine that the DoH may wish to establish that the deaths were not hepatitis related but it would be useful to know this so that we can impress on hospitals the importance of this information. If it is not really very critical then we may have to accept incomplete data. I look forward to your advice.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

(Secretary)

pp Dr. Lorna M. Williamson
Acting Director
University Lecturer in Transfusion Medicine

Copy to: Dr. Andrew Pollock, Dr. Elizabeth Caffrey and Dr. Patricia Hewitt