

21st October 1996



Dr Luc Noel  
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Dear Luc

I understand that you recently gave a lecture on the French Haemovigilance data from May 1994 to May 1996 with some fascinating information, particularly with regard to the incidence of Bacterial Contamination.

In this country we are about to launch our "SHOT Initiative" (Serious Hazards of Transfusion). This will be a non-mandatory, anonymised voluntary system of reporting, unlike the mandatory nature of the French Haemovigilance System. I am enclosing a copy of the BMJ editorial which will appear in print in the near future announcing this initiative within the UK, and a brief background note of how it was developed, together with a copy of the initial reporting form. We have also done a lot of work on the residual risk for transfusion transmitted infections in England and Wales and as soon as this has been finalised I will send you a copy. I am hoping that by sharing our initiatives with you, and as soon as available our centrally collated data, you will consider sharing some of your information with us, as it would appear that some of the information you are collecting is not only fascinating, but showing a much higher incidence of serious incidents than one would have expected.

I am sure you will probably get bombarded with requests for more information from all over the world, but I hope you are able to give my request serious consideration with the promise of future exchange of UK data.

I will add you to my automatic mailing list with regard to SHOT and hope that there is some means of doing the same for me with regard to dissemination of some of the information being generated by the French Haemovigilance system and hopefully we can learn from each other's experience.

My very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

**Dr E Angela E Robinson**  
**Medical Director**

## **Plans for Haemovigilance in the UK**

In mid November the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) initiative will be launched throughout the United Kingdom. The Republic of Ireland will also participate. This system was set up as an initiative between the National Blood Service in England and Wales and the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service. However, having felt all along that it was important to involve hospital haematologists and other hospital based staff as much as possible, a Steering Group has been set up to include representation from a variety of Royal Colleges and professional bodies relevant to transfusion. There is also a small Executive Group who will run the nitty gritty aspects of the initiative. (list of bodies represented on the Steering Group enclosed).

The system is entirely voluntary and at this stage is not officially reporting to the Department of Health, although we provide relevant minutes. There is not legislation covering this activity. The system is designed to cover both infectious and non-infectious hazards of transfusion. Initial reports may be made either to supplying blood centres, or, if hospitals wish to keep the report completely anonymous, to the SHOT office. The SHOT office will initially be sited in the Manchester Blood Centre, but we are considering in the long-term to base SHOT at the Royal College of Pathologists.

Initial reports are made on the enclosed form. It is naturally essential that infectious hazards also be reported to local Blood Centres, so that other potentially infectious components can be withdrawn. SHOT is not designed to replace local system already in place for this. On receipt of an initial reporting form, the SHOT office will issue a specific questionnaire designed to cover each of the various non-infectious hazards listed. The objective of the follow-up questionnaire is to try and elucidate, as far as possible, the cause of the event, so that trends may be observed and recommendations for corrective action made. Once the questionnaire has been received by the SHOT office, all identifiers of patient or hospital will be removed and the incident entered onto the database. The SHOT office will be staffed by a part-time data co-ordinator, and overseen by a Consultant designated as the SHOT Co-ordinator (initially Elizabeth Love, Manchester Blood Centre).

The scheme will be funded for the first three years by the UK Transfusion Services. In effect this funding will be recovered through supply of blood products and services to users hospitals, so no Central Government money has been received for this. The collation of the infectious side of SHOT, both viral and bacterial, is being undertaken in collaboration with the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre of the Central Public Health Laboratory Service in London. To facilitate this, a joint post between the NBS and the CDSC has been created. This post also undertakes collation of microbiological data on blood donors. Bacterial incidents would be covered under that initiative. It has taken 2 years preparation before launching this scheme, to try and ensure that all user hospitals will participate in the scheme.

### **Steering Group**

The Scheme is overseen by a steering group with representation from: -

British Paediatric Association	UK Transfusion Services
Institute of Biomedical Science	British Blood Transfusion Society
British Society for Haematology	Royal College of Anaesthetists
Royal College of Nursing	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Royal College of Pathologists	Royal College of Physicians
Royal College of Surgeons of England	Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Public Health Laboratory Service Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre	