

Letter to Consultant : 1

Dear Dr

Safety of the blood supply is our primary concern. We are in the process of carrying out a study to determine the potential efficacy of anti-HBc screening of blood donors to reduce the risk of post-transfusion hepatitis B.

To make sure that our test results have clinical relevance, we are planning to undertake a look-back study of recipients of previous donations from donors identified as anti-HBc positive, with or without low levels of anti-HBs.

Some patients from your hospital may have received such blood products, and we would be grateful if you would be willing to trace these recipients. In due course, you will receive a questionnaire to enable us to carry out this study and collect all the necessary information.

I hope you will be willing to help.

Yours sincerely

Letter to Consultant : 2

Dear

Following my letter of regarding an anti-HBc look-back study, we have indeed found that some blood products from suspect donors have been distributed to your hospital.

Enclosed are questionnaires corresponding to each relevant unit. The date and identification data are printed at the top. It would be very much appreciated if you would consult your records to complete these forms and return them to me at your earliest convenience.

Should you need further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at

Thank you very much in advance for your collaboration in this important endeavour.

Yours sincerely

Suggested letter from Consultant to patient

Dear

We are writing to you with regard to a blood transfusion you received while in this hospital in This unit was recently discovered to carry a low risk of transmitting the hepatitis B virus, and we would like to find out whether or not you have been infected.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus which is transmitted in a number of ways including blood transfusion. Infected people spontaneously recover in 90% of cases, but it may persist in the remaining 10% and cause chronic hepatitis. In this case, treatment can be offered.

We appreciate that this letter may raise some anxiety although the blood you received is probably not infectious and the virus is often innocuous. So please feel free to telephone if you have any concerns or questions arising from this letter.

In this situation, we would like to obtain from you a blood sample to determine whether or not you have been in contact with the virus. The enclosed letter gives you details of how you can have the sample taken. We will let you know of the test results as soon as possible.

Rest assured that you will be contacted. In the unlikely event that we find evidence of the virus in your blood we will arrange for appropriate expert advice.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely