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29th January 1996

Dr A Townley Associate Specialist National Blood Service Yorkshire Regional Transfusion Centre Bridle Path LEEDS LS15 7TW

Dear Alison

Re: Procedures used for the counselling of donors with confirmed positive microbiological markers

I am aware that Peter Flanagan has already approached you about masterminding an audit of counselling practices within individual transfusion centres using the questionnaire forms that Peter has already devised. It is clear from the findings beginning to emerge from the HCV Lookback exercise that individual transfusion centres utilise different procedures for counselling donors with confirmed positive microbiological markers, and indeed within centres themselves different approaches are taken for different markers. This means that the quality of information available for analysis will vary between sources.

I would be most grateful therefore if you would agree to undertake this audit task as a forerunner to the development of identified standards of care in this area. I am enclosing a list of the named consultants within each centre that currently has the responsibility for the HCV Lookback programme, this would seem a good place to start for the initial circulation of the audit questionnaire forms. It would be helpful too if you could inform the Zonal Clinical Directors - list also enclosed - that you have commenced this audit of counselling procedures together with a list of the named consultants you have circulated the questionnaire to within their zone.

Should you experience any problems, I know that Peter will give you all the guidance and assistance you might need. I know, because this is a field that you are particularly interested in, that you will tackle this task well. It is a key area within the service where I am sure we can do better, and the information you are able to gather and analyse from this audit will serve as a starting point, hopefully to improve counselling practices throughout the country.

Good luck and best wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

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Northern Zone

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Angela Robinson - 29/01/96

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