

cc: Dr Kitchen
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PEH/mm/HepC

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To: Consultant Haematologists in charge of Blood Transfusion Laboratories supplied by
NLBTC (NHS and Private)

Dear Colleague

Hepatitis C Look-back

In my last letter to you (20th January 1995) I indicated that the procedure for HCV look-back was being decided by a Working Party of the MSBT (Microbiological Safety of Blood and Tissue for Transfer).

The Working Party has met on 3 occasions and the procedures and documentation are practically agreed. We have almost completed the task of identifying all donations which need to be included in the look-back, and tracing the fate of these donations to hospitals.

It is likely that we shall be asked to start sending the information to hospitals in the first week of April. We shall be sending a standard form for each component, which will require tracing through blood transfusion laboratory records. Subsequently, if the component was transfused, information about the recipient will be required.

As yet, I have not seen the final versions of the proforma or the documentation which we shall be sending to hospitals. I thought, however, that you would like to know the likely start date for this exercise.

I realise that the HCV look-back will make significant demand on resources at some hospitals. I have had discussions or arranged visits with some of our larger users but will be more than happy to do the same for any hospital if there are particular concerns. To give you some idea of the size of the task, the vast majority of hospitals will be dealing with between 15 and 35 components covering the period 1981 to 1991.

I shall send further information as soon as it is available.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr P E Hewitt
Acting Medical Director

Copy: Professor S Machin - UCH (for UCH/Middlesex)
Dr J Harrison
Dr L Williamson
Dr S Knowles