



NORTH LONDON BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE

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To: Dr Lorna Williamson, Cambridge
Dr Angela Gorman, Brentwood
Dr Sue Knowles, STBTS

Date: 26 January 1995

From: Dr Hewitt

Ref: PEH/dh

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Subject: Anti-HCV Look-Back

The latest information I have, arising from the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of MSBT, is as follows:

1. The PHLS is devising a request form for GPs, this is designed to cover positive test results in recipients who have requested testing, but are not part of the Look-Back procedure. Dr Walford at PHLS felt it was imperative to start collecting data now, since recipients of blood are coming forward with requests for testing.

The procedure is that the PHLS labs will return the test result on a special information request form. The form will go back to the GP with the test results and will be used for referring the second (confirmatory) sample from the GP. The GP will be asked for details of the year of transfusion and the hospital admission. The GP is also asked to indicate that the details may be passed to the local RTC for further action.

We hope that, by the use of this form, RTCs should get information about any anti-HCV positive recipients of blood, not located by Look-Back.

2. As part of the Look-Back procedure, RTCs will inform hospitals of all components likely to have been infected with HCV. A form for this purpose is being devised.
3. There should be a designated consultant responsible for HCV Look-Back at each RTC.
4. It is likely that contact with the GP/Physician caring for the patient will be from the RTC. Suggested letters are being drafted.

5. It is likely that the testing will be carried out in diagnostic laboratories and not RTCs.

It should be remembered, that in most areas of the country, the PHLS provides a testing service for the local area. In London, where the situation is different, much testing is done in local hospital laboratories. Concern has been raised about the different standards of testing in different laboratories and this has been noted by the Working Group.

6. Jack Gillon is reviewing his original document about anti-HCV counselling, with a view to renewing/updating the information.
7. This information has been given to me verbally by Angela. Some of it has not yet been definitely decided, but I thought you would like to know the way matters appear to be proceeding. I would stress that decisions about counselling and testing of recipients in the Look-Back procedure have not yet been definitely made.

Finally, PHLS have corrected their original statement that anti-HCV testing was warranted in past transfusion recipients who now have abnormal liver-function tests. It has been made clear that normal liver-function tests are no assurance of lack of HCV infection.

GRO-C

Dr Hewitt