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EC/CS

Dr P J Heyburn
 Consultant Physician
 Norfolk & Norwich Hospital
 St Stephen's Road
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Dear Doctor

Re: HEPATITIS C VIRUS STUDY
 (**GRO-A** Hosp No **GRO-A**)

As you know, all NBTS blood donations are now tested routinely for antibody to Hepatitis C virus (HCV) with effect from September 1st, 1991.

Earlier this year we began a study, the aims of which are:

- 1) to determine the prevalence of HCV in the East Anglian hospital population.
 - 2) to determine the prevalence of HCV in East Anglian blood donors
- and
- 3) to determine the infectivity of donors who are HCV antibody positive.

Consultant Haematologists at Addenbrookes, Ipswich and Norfolk & Norwich Hospitals kindly agreed to collaborate, and each District Ethical Committee gave its approval for the study to proceed.

Pretransfusion sera from hospital patients requiring cross matching were collected during May and June from each participating hospital and tested for anti-HCV (Study Aim 1).

Seronegative recipients were eligible for entry into the study. Stored samples from donors corresponding to each blood product transfused to these recipients were then tested retrospectively for anti-HCV (Study Aim 2).

Approximately 1000 patients and 3000 donors have been tested in the study so far. As a result, a small number of patients in each hospital has been identified as having received blood or blood products found to be positive in our screening tests for anti-HCV. To achieve Study Aim 3, we propose to contact each of these patients and, with their consent, test for anti-HCV 6 months following transfusion. Patients who are seronegative at 6 months will be retested at 9 and 12 months. The Ethical Committee has understandably asked us to approach each patient's general practitioner beforehand, in case contact would be inappropriate.

Your patient, **GRO-A**, received a positive donation on 17.5.91. I shall therefore be most grateful if you could let me have his address and the name of his GP.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Elizabeth Caffrey **GRO-C**
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