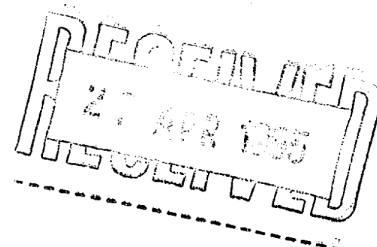


MEMORANDUM



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TO: See Distribution

FROM: Professor S J Machin

DATE: 26 April 1995

SUBJECT: HEPATITIS C 'LOOK BACK' PROCEDURE AT UCLH

A meeting was held on Friday 21st April to discuss the Hepatitis C 'Look Back' procedure at UCLH.

Dr Angela Gorman, Consultant Haematologist from the Brentwood Transfusion Centre attended to explain the procedure from the National Blood Authority's (NBA's) point of view. She reported that there has been an estimated 150 donations transfused to UCLH patients prior to September 1991 which were potentially Hepatitis C infected.

A list of these donor units will be sent, by the first week in May, to the Consultant Haematologists (Professor S J Machin and Dr K G Patterson) in charge of the Hospital Blood Transfusion Service.

The Haematology Department will need to employ a Clerical Assistant for a 3 month period (approximately) who will endeavour to find the relevant details required by the Department of Health. This will eventually mean tracing the hospital notes of the patients who received these transfusions and, in particular, finding the date of the transfusion and the address of the patient and the patient's GP. These details will be forwarded on the appropriate form to Dr Gorman.

Dr Gorman will then write on behalf of the NBA to the patient's GP with a standard letter. This letter will enquire whether the patient is alive, their present address and whether the GP thinks it appropriate for the patient to be informed that they may have been infected with the Hepatitis C virus. The GP may advise that no further action should be taken as this may cause considerable stress to the patient.

The GP will be given the option for the patient to be counselled and have appropriate laboratory investigations performed. This counselling

will, be done by the Hospital Consultant who prescribed the blood transfusion or the Hospital's Hepatitis C Clinic here at UCLH (organised by Dr N Brink, Consultant Virologist in conjunction with advice from Dr Gilson and Dr Sarner).

3 Another alternative would be for the patient to be counselled at specific clinics set up nationally by the NBA. In London these clinics will be held at Colindale, Brentwood and Tooting.

4 If the GP wishes UCLH to follow-up the patient, Dr Gorman will advise Professor Machin who will then write to the Consultant concerned. The Consultant concerned will be given 21 days to reply and to decide whether further follow-up and counselling should occur.

When the counselling and tests have been completed, a full follow-up letter will be sent to the GP, the NBA, Professor Machin and the Consultant concerned. Decisions about long-term follow-up, further investigations (such as liver biopsies) and treatment will then be taken. Obviously, funding for any long-term follow-up of treatment would be negotiated in the standard fashion.

If you require any further information about this 'Look Back' procedure, please contact Professor Machin, Dr Patterson, Dr Brink or Karin Roberts (Pathology Business Manager).

Distribution:

Miss M Armstrong - Secretary to Professor Machin
Mrs M Barlow - MLSO, Blood Transfusion
Ms L Boden - Director of Nursing Services
Dr N Brink - Consultant, Virology Department
Dr P Cervi - SR Haematology
Sister L Derbyshire - Haemophilia Sister
Dr A Goldstone - Medical Director
Dr A Gorman - Regional Blood Transfusion Centre, Brentwood
Prof D Lynch - Consultant Haematologist
Prof S Machin - Clinical Director, Pathology
Mr C Marshall - Chief Executive
Dr K Patterson - Haematology Service Director
Mrs M Popeck - MLSO4, Haematology
Dr G Ridgeway - Consultant Microbiologist
Mrs K Roberts - Business Manager, Pathology
Mr D Starke - Risk Manager
Prof R Tedder - Consultant Virologist
All Clinical Directors
All General Managers

LOOKBACK.CON

Pts. still attending MCH - (incl. Haematologist)
Does Sam want us to write to GP + Paed.)