

25th March 1996



Dr E Love
Consultant Haematologist
National Blood Service
Manchester Centre
Plymouth Grove
Manchester
M13 9LL

TO: All NBS Consultants responsible for HCV LookBack, Zonal Clinical Directors

Dear Liz

HCV Indeterminates for Inclusion in Lookback

Certain queries with regard to the inclusion of Indeterminates have been raised which need clarification.

It is important to recognise that the MSBT agreed that it was necessary to try and identify a small group of recipients who might have been put at risk from the transfusion of certain donations with indeterminate serology. The objective was therefore to define the criteria for inclusion of indeterminates as strictly and as tightly as possible, such that a UK wide consistent approach is achieved.

To clarify therefore, please note the following: -

The results of the EIA's should only be assessed on those donors with indeterminate serology who consistently showed a very clear band of at least 3+ to either c22 or NS3(c33c). The decision must be made on the original result - do not retest.

A careful appraisal of those initially interpreted as falling within the criteria should eliminate those who, in reality, are not in this tightly defined "risk group".

I hope this will clarify most of the areas where queries have arisen as it is important that this issue is tackled in a consistent manner throughout the NBS.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr E Angela E Robinson
Medical Director

National
Blood
Authority
Oak House
Reeds Crescent
Watford
Herts. WD1 1QH
Tel: 01923 212121
Fax: 01923 211031