

12th June 1996
Our ref: PAT1c/42c

GRO-A

Dear Mrs GRO-A

I am writing to you with the permission of your GP, GRO-A, to ask whether you would be willing to help with a study we are carrying out on patients who have received blood transfusions in the last five years.

Blood transfusion in the UK is already very safe, but we are currently studying an extra test for blood donors which might make transfusion even safer. As you probably know, all blood donations are tested for hepatitis, and the blood you received in December 1993 tested negative for hepatitis by the standard tests. However, a very few donors who test negative may still be hepatitis carriers. That is why we are currently studying an extra test for hepatitis.

As part of the study, we have identified a number of patients who have received blood from donors whose extra tests indicate that they are not infectious for hepatitis. So please do not worry, we do not think there is any risk that you have contracted hepatitis from your transfusion. However, to prove this, we need to test patients such as yourself whose transfusions appear to be hepatitis free. We would therefore like to offer you hepatitis B testing and further explanation from one of our trained nurses.

I hope this letter will not have caused you any anxiety, but if anything is not clear, please ring the above number and ask to speak to the nurse carrying out the study (Mrs Joanna Griffiths) or myself. If we are not available when you telephone, one of us will ring you back as soon as possible. If you are willing to join the study, please return the enclosed enrolment form, and one of our nurses will be in touch with you within the next week to arrange the blood test. This can be done at your doctor's surgery. It would be helpful for the Transfusion Service to have information from this study - if you are at all able to help this will be much appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely

Dr Lorna M Williamson
Consultant/University Lecturer in Transfusion Medicine

Enclosure