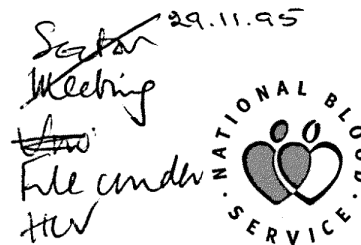


24th November 1995

Dr L Williamson
Acting Director
East Anglian Blood Transfusion Centre
University of Cambridge
Long Road
Cambridge CB2 2PT



Dear Colleague

Re: NBA/PHLS-CDSC surveillance of transfusion transmissible infections

As you know, the revised donation testing surveillance system collects data about testing donations for HBV, HCV, HIV and *T.pallidum*. Please find enclosed the first monthly surveillance report. It contains data on donations collected by transfusion centres in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and Eire in October 1995, and reported to the surveillance system by 15th November.

Tables for each of the four infections will be included in the monthly report:

Tables 1a & 1b: Testing of blood donations (excluding donations from donors being monitored because of previously reactive, but not confirmed to be positive, donations)

- a) Test kit and batch specific results by centre for donations collected during the last month.
- b) Cumulative test kit and batch specific results from 1/10/95 to the end of the last month.

These tables present results that enable comparison of reactivity rates for test kits and test kit batches.

Tables 2a & 2b: Infections in blood donors

- a) Donor type specific infection rates by centre for donations collected during the last but one month.
- b) Cumulative confirmed infections from start of national collation to the end of the last but one month.

These tables present results that enable comparison of repeatedly reactive rates and infection rates in new, known and previously reactive donors, as well as by Blood Centre (Table 2a).

As confirmatory testing results take longer to be reported completely, Tables 2a and 2b are one month in arrears of Tables 1a and 1b. For example, in the November donation testing surveillance report (issued in December) Table 1a will include data on donations collected in November, Table 1b will include cumulative data on donations collected in October and November 1995, Table 2a will include data on donations collected in October only, and Table 2b will include cumulative data to the end of October 1995. The enclosed report includes an example Table 2a, (which contains October's incomplete results and from which data should not be used) but no Table 2b.

Please let us know if these tables do not contain the data you would like, and make suggestions for improvement of the format as you wish. If your Blood Centre additionally requires some other breakdown of these data, either on a routine, or an ad hoc basis, we will try to produce the required tables, or dataset, for you on request.

/Continued....

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We hope you will find these tables useful and informative. If you have any queries relating to the data in Table 1a or Table 1b please contact Alan Slopecki. If you have any queries about the data in Table 2a or Table 2b please contact Kate Soldan (0181 200 6868 x 4602).

A quarterly surveillance report, incorporating data from the infected donor surveillance forms and the post-transfusion infection surveillance forms will be produced in January, April, July and October each year. The first quarterly report from the revised system will therefore be in January 1996. We will review the mailing lists for these reports in early 1996.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in reporting the HIV and HCV figures for January to September 1995. These are still being processed and will be reported to you as soon as possible.

National QC analysis of go-no-go sample testing is being undertaken by NIBSC and we anticipate the start of national collation and reporting of these data shortly.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

GRO-C

Alan Slopecki
National QA Manager

Kate Soldan
NBA/PHLS-CDSC Infection Surveillance Officer