

Our Ref: NAA/SAH
8 January, 1996

Dr A G Prentice
Consultant Haematologist
Derriford Combined Laboratory
Derriford Hospital
PLYMOUTH PL6 8DH

Dear Archie

RE: Hepatitis C Look-back

Thank you for your letter regarding the hepatitis C look-back. I think I should point out that the look-back is a Department of Health exercise. We were instructed as to the role the Transfusion Service was to play and it is my understanding that all hospitals were similarly instructed. There was no central funding supplied by the DoH to hospitals but there was a requirement to comply, and this may mean that temporary secretarial staff need to be employed for this purpose. The funding for this would have to be provided by your purchaser.

As far as counselling recipients is concerned I fully agree that this has to be done on an individual basis. The Chief Medical Officer sent counselling guidelines to all medical practitioners in April last year. However the vast majority of doctors to whom I have spoken no longer have this letter and I usually include a copy of these guidelines. The counselling pack also contains the DoH form which documents the process, and instructions regarding the samples. There is a request to send an extra EDTA sample to London for a research project into genomic RNA and this is explained in the documentation in the pack. The DoH have agreed to have a few PHLS labs in the country doing the tests and will reimburse these specific laboratories on receipt of a photocopy of the counselling form. The original counselling form is retained by us here with a copy to be filed in the patients hospital notes and also a copy is sent to Dr Angela Robinson at the NBA. As far as Mr **GRO-A** is concerned, I enclose a green form which is the DoH counselling form. I would be very grateful if you could complete it, photocopy it for his hospital notes and return it to me.

We are required to produce regular progress reports to the Medical Safety of Blood Transfusion Committee. As the process is now well advanced, it is possible that in the near future we will have to produce an explanation for the gaps in our returns. I am therefore anxious that the look-back should be completed speedily, as the majority of other hospitals in the region are finished.

Yours sincerely

DR N A B ANDERSON
Consultant Haematologist