



6th June 1995

Dr J Metters  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Dear Jeremy

**Re: HCV Look Back Exercise**

The Bristol situation (and possibly others that I'm not yet aware of, is as follows) - 2 cases so far where: -

1. The Blood Bank and Hospital Haematologist have traced a contaminated unit to the patient's records.
2. The LBF1 form has been returned to the transfusion centre -
  - (i) in 1st case - the comment is:- patient/recipient known to be HCV positive and under the care of the Hepatologist
  - (ii) in 2nd case the comment is: - patient already under the care of the hepatologist.

I.e. the assumption is that both patients have HCV liver disease but a possible transfusion link has not formally been recognised at this point in time and the Transfusion Centre had not been notified at the time the patient/recipient had been diagnosed.

The HCV Lookback exercise has now identified that both these patients received HCV infected blood in the past.

I would like your advice on the best action to take.

/Continued.....

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



- 2 -

### Questions

1. Do we formally notify the consultant hepatologist about the transfusion of a HepC positive unit of blood to his patient?
2. If we do so this will require a different form of letter from the standard letters we have so far designed.
3. Do we need a different type of questionnaire response re the status of the HCV liver disease or will our counselling questionnaire be adequate?
4. Should we advise the consultant hepatologist to inform his patient that he/she has been identified as a recipient of HCV contaminated blood as a result of the HCV Look Back exercise?

These 2 cases may be the tip of the iceberg as this just confirms our feeling that in the past cases of hepatitis post blood transfusion have been under-reported because the possible link between past transfusion and the later development of hepatitis has been forgotten. I would therefore appreciate your advice on how best to handle these type of cases.

Sorry to trouble you.

Best wishes

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