

COPY

MANCHESTER

Ref: EML/MB/6

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Dr J Craske
Consultant Virologist
Public Health Laboratory
Withington Hospital
MANCHESTER
M20 8LR

Dear John

re:- HCV LOOK BACK

I said I would write to you letting you know how we planned to conduct the look back.

Since speaking to you on the 'phone we have received more detailed information from Angela Robinson which clarifies the BTS role.

As far as speculative testing is concerned we have been quite clearly instructed to resist the temptation to undertake it at the Transfusion Centres. We have been advised to refer the patient enquiry back to the General Practitioner who may then request a screening test from yourself if the circumstances justify the request. In order to be more helpful to those patients who have already made enquiries we are planning to send a standard letter to those individuals to clarify the situation and to suggest where patients may obtain help if they remain concerned.

With reference to the look back programme we have already started to compile details of the destinations of all previous donations from donors who have been found HCV positive. These will then be drawn up into a dossier for each hospital and the whole exercise is expected to take approximately one month. We have not received any instructions as to what should happen to the dossier once this has been prepared nor what our role will be in the subsequent follow-up of recipients.

As far as the donors are concerned I am following up all those who were clearly confirmed HCV reactive regardless of their PCR status and I am also including in that group the small sub-group of indeterminates that we picked out for referral some of whom were later confirmed reactive plus minus PCR positivity. I have written to you individually about a number of other indeterminates which appear to fall into a border line category but I am doing nothing about the remaining indeterminate donors.

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Since there have been no clear guidelines I thought it wise at present to assume that we would follow up not only PCR positive donors but the small number of negative ones as well.

I hope this clarifies the situation. I am told that we shall be receiving more information after the Adhoc MSBT working party has deliberated.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Dr Elizabeth M Love
Consultant Haematologist/
Deputy Director