

# NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE

LONDON AND THE SOUTH EAST ZONE

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**To:** See distribution list below

**From:** Dr Pat Hewitt **Ref:** PH/EJ/nvCJD

**Copy:** Dr Angela Robinson; Dr Dorothy Stainsby; Dr Tim Wallington;  
Dr Mahes de Silva; Charlotte Llewelyn

**Date:** 7th October 1999

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**Subject:** Recipients of Donations originating from Donors who later developed nvCJD

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The Department of Health has received advice from MSBT that blood from individuals, who have themselves received blood from donors who later developed nvCJD, should not be allowed to enter the blood supply.

This apparently simple recommendation has a number of far-reaching consequences and implications. A meeting was held at the Department of Health last week to discuss these issues and the possible consequences of implementing the MSBT advice.

It has now been agreed that the recipients who have received blood from donors who later developed nvCJD, who have been identified to us, and who are eligible as donors, must be registered on the donor database and then suitably flagged so that their donations will not enter the blood supply. When we first discussed this issue, we were informed that there is a mechanism for doing this (Mike Clark, Kath Baker). This mechanism must now be put in place for the individuals who are eligible to be blood donors by virtue of their date of birth. In recognition that these individuals may not remain in the area where they received their blood transfusion, they will need to be registered in all three Zones. I will therefore be forwarding their information to one individual per Zone, and asking for that individual to take responsibility for the action for the whole Zone. There would seem to be little point in sending this information out to you all, and it should be restricted on a need to know basis. I am therefore designating Nicky Anderson (for Midlands & SW), David Deleacy (for the Northern Zone) and Dr Chris Moore (for London & SE) to receive this information. Please could the three of you liaise with Kathleen Baker over the PULSE issues?

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We have asked the Department of Health to approach the Health Departments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, so that we may similarly cover the whole of the UK. Currently, the information is restricted to country of domicile of the recipient.

A number of consequences will flow from this action. Should any of the individuals who have been "pre-registered" on our databases present as blood donors, then a donation will be taken but not used. At this point the individual will need to be informed that we are unable to use the blood, and the reasons. We therefore need to be prepared with a counselling document and with appropriate referral centres for individuals who might be involved. I shall be working on these together with Bob Will at the CJDSU. As part of this, the Department of Health has undertaken to ensure that the National Blood Service will have the authority to carry out direct referral to a relevant specialist centre.

There remains the wider issue of other recipients (too old to be blood donors) who could conceivably become donors of tissues in the future. This area presents a much greater challenge, which the Department of Health will be addressing with an expert group looking at other areas, in particular the identification of patients who have potentially been exposed to the same surgical instruments as cases who later developed nvCJD. The area of tissue donation will not therefore be addressed at this stage.

I hope the above is clear, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or wish to raise any points.

Distribution:

Dr Cath Chapman  
Dr Alison Townley  
Dr Virge James  
Dr David Deleacy  
Dr Alistair Shepherd

Dr Jimmy Gabra  
Dr Nicky Anderson  
Dr Andrew Herborn  
Dr Liz Caffrey  
Dr Angela Gorman  
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