

Mr Robb HP3B
Lindsey French Press Office

From : Paul Pudlo CA : OPU2

Date : 31 May 1996

Copy : Mr Guinness CA OPU1/2
Miss Towner CA OPU2

HEPATITIS C - COMPENSATION

1. Ministers have now agreed the following line to be used on questions about HCV compensation. Please could you amend the Hepatitis Awareness Week briefing accordingly.

Line to Take

The Government has great sympathy for those infected with Hepatitis C as a result of NHS treatment. These patients received the best treatment available in the light of medical knowledge at the time and no fault or negligence on the part of the NHS has been proved. We have no plans to make special payments. [However] We are giving careful consideration to the Haemophilia Society's report on the impact of Hepatitis C. The best way the Government can help is to encourage research and the best treatment for those infected, as well as supporting voluntary groups working with them. This we are doing.

Paul Pudlo
Room 315, EH
Ext **GRO-C**