

3 April 1995



Dear Doctor

HEPATITIS C AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION LOOK BACK

I am sending this letter to inform you of the guidance and procedures for the look back exercise announced by Tom Sackville, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, on 11 January 1995, to trace, counsel and, if necessary, treat those people who may have been inadvertently infected with hepatitis C through blood transfusions.

Many of you will have received information in January 1995 about the Government's announcement of the look back exercise.

I am asking for your help in identifying those patients who may have been infected with hepatitis C through blood transfusion. This will concern primarily hospital consultants in a number of specialties, those working in blood transfusion centres, and general practitioners. I am sure that your patients will appreciate your efforts on their behalf.

An ad hoc Working Party of experts has now drawn up guidance on the procedures for undertaking the look back exercise and for counselling those identified as being at risk, as well as guidance on the treatment options available.

From the Chief Medical Officer

Dr Kenneth C Calman
MD PhD FRCS (GLAS.ED) FRCP
(LOND.ED) FRCGP FRCR FFPHM
FRSE

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

PL CMO (95)1

Hepatitis C and Blood Transfusion Look Back

For action

- All Doctors

For information

- Regional Directors/Managers
- District General Managers
- Chief Executives, NHS Trusts
- General Managers FHSAs
- General Managers DMUs

For further information please
contact for professional enquiries:

Dr A S M Rejman, Room 420,
Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6EF
Tel: **GRO-C**

and for administrative enquiries:

David Burrage, Room 313
Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6EF
Tel: **GRO-C**

The guidance and procedures are set out in the Annexes:

- * Guidance on the look back procedures - Annex A
- * Guidance on counselling and treatment options - Annex B

It is important that all testing to determine a patient's hepatitis C status is undertaken by diagnostic microbiology laboratories with the capability of performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for hepatitis C on site. A list of recommended laboratories will be provided by the National Blood Authority. Arrangements have been made for the National Blood Authority to bear the cost of such testing.

GRO-C

Dr Kenneth C Calman
Chief Medical Officer

HEPATITIS C AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION LOOK BACK

PL CMO(95)1

3 April 1995

Page 2 of 2

Requests for further copies should be addressed to
Department of Health Store
Health Publications Unit
No 2 Site, Manchester Road
Heywood
Lancashire OL10 2PZ
quoting code and serial number
appearing above.

For correction of any discrepancies in changes of address, practice or name, please contact
The Medical Mailing Company
PO Box 60, Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 0WP
Telephone Freephone 0800 626387

© Crown copyright 1995