

Mr. Williams

2 Speaks to Dr. Smithies Reference

3000

\*Suggested the Amendments shown at X

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D.V.

Dr M Sibellas

AIDS LEAFLET

I would be grateful for your views on the amendments to the current issue of the AIDS leaflet which are in the draft attached.

The manuscript alteration to the sentence in the third paragraph about homosexual men being at risk is done at Dr Gunson's suggestion. He also wishes to delete the phrase in square brackets. However, you may consider that the statement "homosexual or bi-sexual men" may alienate the Gay community (could one put "practising homosexuals"?).

Dr Gunson also thinks we should not include the symptoms of AIDS but has agreed that we should seek the opinion of other Regional Transfusion Directors on this. We shall circulate the draft leaflet to RTDs when colleagues in the office have commented.

I would be grateful for an early response.

GRO-C

Dr Alison Smithies  
MED SEB  
Room 1025A Han Hse  
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9 May 1984

cc Miss Edwards  
Mr Cunningham  
Miss V Brown  
Mr A Williams  
Mr S Green

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will seek views of Barbara Weller

CODE 18-78



? relationship to  
Now Eldin's da.

Speak to John

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With the Compliments of  
Department of Health and Social Security

GRO-C

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DRAFT LEAFLET ON AIDS

AIDS AND HOW IT CONCERNS BLOOD DONORS

Since AIDS may be transmitted by transfusion of blood and blood products the National Blood Transfusion Service wants blood donors to have the facts about the disease

#### WHAT IS AIDS?

X ~~Aids~~ <sup>AIDS</sup> is short for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. A rare disease that has been recognised only recently. It is a serious disease which depresses the body's normal resistance to infections or even to developing unusual types of cancer. AIDS is probably caused by a virus but this is not known for certain.

#### WHO IS AT RISK FROM AIDS?

X If AIDS is caused by a virus it does not seem to be transmitted by day to day contact. <sup>However,</sup> There is evidence that certain groups of people appear to be most at risk; these are:

1. Homosexual <sup>or bisexual</sup> men [who have many different partners.]
- X ~~Drug addicts~~ <sup>Drugs</sup> 2. Drug ~~addicts~~ [both men and women who inject drugs.]
3. Sexual contacts of people in the two groups above or of people suffering from AIDS.

AIDS has also affected haemophiliac patients who receive as treatment components derived from blood donations.

HAS AIDS OCCURRED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM?

Yes, although only 31 cases had been reported in the UK by the end of 1983 compared with 3000 in the USA it is expected that more cases will be reported and a close watch is being kept on the situation.

CAN AIDS BE TRANSMITTED BY A TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS?

Almost certainly yes-but there is only the most remote chance of this happening with ordinary blood transfusions given in hospital.

HOW CAN THE RISKS BE REDUCED?

The National Blood Transfusion Service has a very high regard for donors as extremely responsible people who give blood for the benefit of others and is confident that they would not knowingly put patients at risk from such a serious disease as AIDS. At present there is no screening test the Transfusion Service can use to detect people with AIDS or suspected AIDS. So until there is and until more is known about this disease donors are asked not to give blood if they think they may have the disease or if they think they are in one of the risk groups.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AIDS?

Please remember that many of the symptoms listed below occur in many conditions other than AIDS. However, if you have them it is important that we don't take your blood.

Swollen glands in the neck, armpits or groin.

Unexpected weight loss (more than 10 pounds over 2 months or less).

Unexpected fever.

Sweating at night.

Cough which is persistent and not due to smoking or flu.

Diarrhoea which is persistent and unexplained.

Pink or purple raised or flat skinned blotches.

CAN BLOOD DONORS GET AIDS FROM DONATING BLOOD?

X No. There are no diseases <sup>Contracted</sup> [transmitted] by giving blood. All the materials used for collecting blood are sterile and are only used once.

WHERE CAN DONORS OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON AIDS?

Donors can discuss in confidence whether to give blood with the doctor on the blood collection session, their own doctor or the Director of their local Blood Transfusion Centre.

PLEASE REMEMBER, AIDS IS A RARE DISEASE BUT A SERIOUS ONE.