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CONFIDENTIAL

Dr Pratima Chowdary
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Haemophilia and Haemostasis Centre
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Dear Pratima

Re: Mark Stewart, Hospital No: 217031, Dob GRO-C 1968

This patient was found to be hepatitis C (HCV) IgG antibody positive in November 2002. However, HCV RNA was not detected in serum tested around the same time (November 2002). We did not receive any follow up sample until recently. Blood taken on 20/12/06 and 18/01/07 was tested by our new PCR assay and both samples contained over a million IU of HCV RNA per ml (Genotype 3a). This led to retrospective analyses of the stored sera from December 1999 and November 2002, and both sera were found to be positive for hep C RNA (623,122 IU and 799,692 IU respectively). We have also genotyped the virus in these stored samples and both had the same genotype (3a) of virus as seen in 2006 and 2007 sera.

The initial RNA test in 2002 was performed by an earlier version of the PCR assay which possibly gave a false negative result. However, at this stage we cannot exclude any labelling or sampling errors.

I am extremely sorry for this mistake. If a patient is found to be HCV antibody positive and RNA negative, (as was seen in this case in 2002), please send a follow up blood sample to confirm these results. It is recommended that patients with these discordant results (Ab positive, RNA negative) should be tested yearly for HCV RNA to monitor any change.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Tanzina Haque

Cc; Caroline Miller, Specialist Registrar, Haemophilia Centre