

NEWS RELEASES

29 August 2003

MINISTER ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C

Angela Smith, MP, the Minister with responsibility for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, today announced her intention to establish a financial assistance scheme in Northern Ireland for people infected with Hepatitis C as a result of being given blood products by the HPSS.

The Minister's decision mirrors similar announcements today by the Secretary of State for Health, Dr John Reid, and the Scottish Health Minister, Malcolm Chisholm.

Ms Smith said: "The decision to make financial assistance available to this group of people has been taken purely on compassionate grounds. Details of how the scheme will work and what payments will be available are still being finalised but in principle the Government has decided that people in Northern Ireland suffering from Hepatitis C as a result of receiving blood/blood products from the HPSS will receive ex-gratia payments from the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety."



[Click here](#) to print this press release.