

APPENDIX

ANTI-HTLV TESTING IN USA, AUSTRALIA AND EUROPE

3859

May 88
approx.

USA

As far as it is known all blood banks are screening donors voluntarily. The Public Health Service (PHS) has not yet made this mandatory as at present the blood banks are running in their test. However it will soon be required for all blood donations and the PHS have issued guidance that donors should be told of their antibody status. Further guidance is expected from the PHS about what is to be regarded as a positive test and FDA are also expected to give advice on what tests should be used to confirm positivity.

AUSTRALIA

All blood donations are being screened in Australia. Arrangements have been made to back up the screening of blood donors by providing alternate testing facilities for high risk groups who wish to know their antibody status. A major effort has been put into educating the public and blood donors generally about the risks of AIDS the need to refrain from donating if in a high risk group and the test and testing facilities. A central decision has been taken that donors who are found to be positive should be informed. As testing has only been instituted for 1 month it has not been possible to find out the consequences of this action.

FRANCE

An evaluation exercise is currently being undertaken using a number of tests on a number of samples. It is hoped that this will be concluded by the end of June and they will be in a position to commence routine screening throughout the transfusion service by July. A central decision has been taken to inform donors if they are positive.

WESTERN GERMANY

Routine testing of blood donations is being instituted. Instructions have been given for each blood bank to commence tests as soon as they are in a position to do so but not later than 1 October 1985. A central decision has been taken to inform positive donors.

NETHERLANDS

By mid June all except 2 blood collecting centres will be screening blood donations for antibody. No information is being given to donors yet and considerable effort has been expended on informing the Health Service workers and others about AIDS and to provide facilities for psychological support etc.

SWEDEN

Sweden expect to screen all blood donations from the beginning of August, currently evaluating tests. A special clinic provided in Stockholm for high risk groups to have blood tests.

SWITZERLAND

Screening is beginning in some blood banks considerable concern at the unreliability of the test kits.

DENMARK

Surveys of donors had been undertaken now examining commercial kits. Compulsory testing of blood donors has not yet been recommended.

Other Member States of the Council of Europe are only either involved in evaluating diagnostic kits or carrying out sero-epidemiological studies and have not yet thoroughly considered introducing screening of blood donations.