

Kent Haemophilia Centre
Comprehensive Care Centre
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MW/SP

9 December 2004

Dr F Hill
Chairman, UKHCDO
Department of Clinical & Laboratory Haematology
The Birmingham Children's Hospital
Steelhouse Lane
BIRMINGHAM
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Dear Frank

Please find enclosed a draft letter concerning the Skipton Fund.

As the Skipton Fund is only the servant of the DoH - and does not set policy - on reflection I think it would be better to direct the correspondence directly to the DoH, with copies going to Peter Stevens and Martin Harvey at the Skipton Fund.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Mark Winter
Haemophilia Centre Director

DRAFT

Dear William,

Re: The Skipton Fund

✓ The matter of the hepatitis C ex gratia payment scheme was discussed at length by the Comprehensive Care Centre Directors at their meeting of 29 November 2004. ~~again on 7th Feb 2004.~~

There is significant disquiet amongst Haemophilia Centre Directors about the criteria being used for this scheme. Under the terms of the original criteria, patients who are hepatitis C antibody positive who have abnormal liver function demonstrable at some stage will qualify for payment. As there are many potential medical causes of abnormal liver function – including excessive ingestion of alcohol – this ~~inappropriate~~ ^{imprecise} criterion must inevitably allow a number of patients to be approved for payment who do not have (and never have had) circulating hepatitis C virus.

⊙ We are aware that a number of patients who are hepatitis C antibody positive and who are persistently PCR negative (and therefore not eligible for payment under the criteria) have applied to the Skipton Fund whereas many patients in a similar situation have not.

Given the above, it seems to us that the only way out of an unsatisfactory situation is to offer all patients who are hepatitis C antibody positive the part 1 payment, as otherwise the scheme as it stands can only be divisive and unfair.

⊙ We would also strongly recommend that the very small number of patients who acquired hepatitis B from treatment with contaminated coagulation factor concentrates (and not hepatitis C) should also be included for payment.

~~We would be please to discuss further our views on this matter.~~

Yours sincerely