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Department of Health
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PRESS RELEASE

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AIDS: INFORMATION FOR DOCTORS

Dr Donald Acheson, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, has today (Wednesday) written to all doctors in England enclosing papers which will give them the latest information and guidance on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

These papers, which have been prepared with the help of the Government's Expert Advisory Group on AIDS, give advice on the diagnosis and reporting of AIDS cases; details of the risk groups; measures to control the spread of the disease; and the safety precautions which should be adopted when investigating or treating cases. They also cover topics such as counselling for patients and their families and friends.

Commenting, Dr Acheson said: "This latest initiative is part of a series of public health measures aimed at health professionals and people at risk. I hope it will provide doctors with information which they will find helpful in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease and in counselling those who have worries about it. Much of this information is not yet in medical text books. It must not be forgotten that this is a very recently recognised disease and that what is known about it is increasing as a result of worldwide research and experience almost on a week by week basis."

A paper prepared by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (part of the Public Health Laboratory Service) which is responsible for monitoring cases of AIDS in this country, has also been sent to doctors giving details of the epidemiology of the disease.