



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
HANNIBAL HOUSE
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Your reference
Our reference

To Regional General Managers
General Managers of Special Health Authorities } for action
for London Postgraduate Hospitals*

24 September 1985

Dear General Manager

AIDS LEAFLET FOR BLOOD DONORS

1. You will know the Department in conjunction with the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), produced leaflets in 1983 and January 1985 advising blood donors in the AIDS high risk groups that they should not donate blood. This publicity has been successful but must continue.
2. A revised leaflet entitled "AIDS - important information for blood donors" is now being printed for issue. It contains important new information. The new leaflet, for example, advises groups "at risk" from AIDS that they must not give blood or attend donor sessions despite the introduction of blood tests for antibody to HTLVIII; advises members of "at risk" groups where they may obtain a test; and advises would-be donors that they can only be accepted if they consent to having their blood tested for the presence of antibodies to HTLVIII.
3. Regional Health Authorities are therefore asked to ensure that the individual distribution arrangements detailed in HC(85)3 for the January 1985 leaflet (including those for establishments outside of the NBTS) are again applied to the September 1985 leaflet. In the initial weeks of HTLVIII antibody testing it may be necessary to hand the new leaflets to donors who have not otherwise received it.
4. The Department is again meeting the cost of printing the revised leaflet. Whilst there are some resource implications for Regional Health Authorities arising from distribution of the leaflets, General Managers are asked to ensure that a full and effective distribution, nevertheless, takes place.
5. Supplies of leaflets will not be sent to Sexually Transmitted Diseases clinics on this occasion. It is presentationally important to distinguish general information on AIDS from information aimed at donors.
6. Copies of this letter are enclosed for Regional Transfusion Directors.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

M A HARRIS
Health Services Division 1

* Administrator or Secretary where there is no General Manager in post.