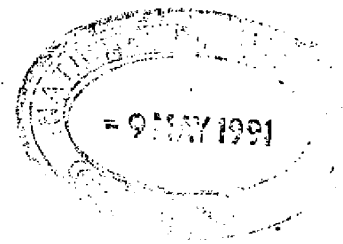


Your ref: XTD 1221/HLL/pk
Our ref : IDF/JKS

7th May, 1991.



Dr H L Lloyd
Director/General Manager
Northern Regional Health Authority
National Blood Transfusion Service
Holland Drive
Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4NQ

Dear Huw,

re: Hepatitis C Testing.

Thank you for your letter of 2nd May where you indicate that you are going to start Hepatitis C Antibody testing in your Centre on 1st July next. I feel you are making an error of judgement here and seem to be flouting the advice given by Dr. Gunson, who I thought had made it fairly clear, that transfusion centres should not start testing until September 1st at the earliest. Obviously, we need to have some experience with regard to the newer generation tests. The Transfusion Service normally acts in unison when introducing new tests for transfusion transmitted diseases. This certainly happened for HIV I and HIV II. I think it would be far better for you to wait to introduce this test until a date has been agreed for all transfusion centres to commence testing.

Cont'd.....

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I too had informed the hospitals in the South West region that HCV Antibody testing was going to be introduced in July. I then wrote around again after hearing from Dr. Gunson that the tests would now not be introduced until September 1st at the earliest. I have had no adverse reaction from colleagues with regard to the change in timing.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

I D Fraser
DIRECTOR

c.c. Dr. Gunson

HHG 5/22

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