



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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Please reply to:
Ellen's Glen Road
JDC/EP

28th July 1989

Dr A D McIntyre
SHHD
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH

Dear Archie

New Virological Systems for Testing Blood Donations

I am a little concerned that with the departure of Dr Skinner away from BTS matters that SHHD and SNBTS remain in close contact on this topic. The major concern at the present time is the considerable marketing pressure being exerted on us by Ortho Ltd (the company marketing this product) to introduce full (routine) Chiron (NANB) donation screening - a matter, I'm sure you'll agree, which has potential for much public interest.

I think it is quite important for me to put on record the position following our telephone conversation last week.

You indicated that the decision to commence routine donation testing, using the Ortho (Chiron) test, throughout the SNBTS, would be made by SHHD, and that it would not be appropriate at this time for senior SNBTS managers to liaise with Ortho Ltd with respect to arranging supplies of tests for routine donation testing. Such discussions should not take place until instructions are received from SHHD.

I'd be most grateful if you would confirm this position.

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

The second point I must raise is that we are about to receive similar pressure from companies marketing HIV-2 tests. I believe the fundamental management position is the same as that with the Chiron test - we await instructions from SHHD. Will you also confirm this position? You will be interested in the enclosed.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

Encl.

Copy to:
Transfusion Directors