OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

Infected Blood
Compensation Authority

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Policy Forum Minutes
21st March 2025, 11.30am
Online

Attendees: Celine McLoughlin, GRO-D GRO-D , Alix Crabtree, GRO-D GRO-D GRO-D GRO-D , GRO-D

Item 1: Terms of reference
1. The group accepted the Terms of Reference
2. There was some discussion on the appropriateness of having subject-matter experts such as IBIRT and UCs in the group. It was suggested that having them there on an advisory basis with no vote/decision making powers may be appropriate and CM took an action to confirm this.

Item 2: Dating principles paper
GRO-D ran through the details of the paper. The group agreed to ratify the paper, subject to two pieces of further work:
- Policy forum would recommend that ExCo approve the removal of diagnosis years from Hepatitis claim declaration forms, as its inclusion is unnecessary, distracting and slowing down some claims;
- GRO-D would produce a paper on HIV infection dating to go to ExCo. This would be based on the contents of the dating principles paper, but informed by further advice to come from COLA by 28th March 2025. AF to commission that advice from COLA.

Item 3: Personal representatives (aka proxies)
GRO-D walked the group through his paper. The group raised no significant concerns but requested that ExCo had input.
- Policy Forum would recommend that ExCo approve the proposed informal representative process, whilst acknowledging there is continued work needed to understand the relationship with legal support and safeguarding.
- GRO-D would prepare a focused ExCo paper on the following specific issues to ensure ExCO have visibility and can query if required:
    - Requiring an additional witness to the informal representative process, but allowing greater choice of who that witness is, is a suitable mitigation for fraud without placing too great a burden on the person making the claim.
    - That the proposed informal representation process should only be open to personal relationships i.e. family and friends, not professional advisors/organisations
    - Ongoing discussion as to the relationship between representatives and legal support, should not prevent the use of this process for claims as soon as possible.