



file: CJD Incident
Panel
Blood & blood products
Department
of Health

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CJD INCIDENT PANEL

Dear Dr Troop

Thank you for giving the CJD Incident Panel the opportunity to comment on your draft letter to NHS Trust Medical Directors giving interim guidance on how to respond to patients who may have been given certain blood-derived products that may have been contaminated with variant CJD.

As you are aware, the Panel met on 22 – 23 February and Charles Lister provided the Panel with the background to your draft letter, which was tabled at the meeting. The Panel Secretariat has also been contacted directly by the West Midlands Regional Health Authority requesting advice on this particular incident. Pat Hewitt, representing the National Blood Authority, is a Panel member and was present at the meeting.

The Panel has already included considerations of blood and blood products in its draft guidance documents and these are progressing well.

Members expressed grave reservations over several aspects of your letter as drafted and suggest that you may wish to delay sending the letter until the Panel has had time to develop advice. The Panel considered that it would be unhelpful if messages coming from the Deputy Chief Medical Officer were to be inconsistent with advice from the CJD Incident Panel. Therefore, the Panel has asked the Secretariat to organise a meeting of a small subgroup of the Panel to provide you with the Panel's advice in as timely a manner as possible, given the resources available to the Panel. The Secretariat is trying to organise a meeting of the subgroup within the next 2 weeks and will keep you informed of progress. I hope this is compatible with your need for urgent action in this instance.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Michael Banner
CJD Incident Panel Chairman