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file: CSD/Incident
Panel -
Blood
blood products

18 January 2001

Dear Professor Banner

USE OF PLASMA FROM A DONOR WHO DEVELOPED vCJD

I am writing to let you know about the following development, for information.

It has come to our notice that the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation (UKHCDO) circulated to members of their advisory committee a fax on 16 January 2001 which sought comments on a handling strategy for bringing to the attention of Centre Directors and patients the fact that certain products, used on patients before 1998, contained plasma from a donor who went on to develop vCJD. Via this strategy, patients will be invited to return to Centre Directors a reply sheet indicating whether they would wish to know if they/their child had received one of the potentially contaminated batches.

A 'hard copy' of my letter to you, together with a copy of the papers that UKHCDO have circulated to their committee, is being sent to you by post.

I attach a fact sheet prepared by the Department's Blood Policy Unit which sets out the key points. It occurs to us that the Panel may be able to draw some useful lessons from the responses which arise from the UKHCDO initiative. Any further questions on this issue should be directed to Dr Mike McGovern (tel GRO-C) or Charles Lister (GRO-C) who will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Alan Harvey
CJD Policy Unit

cc: Dr P Edwards, Panel Secretary
PROFESSOR DON JEFFRIES