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1 February 1996

Department of Health
Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
LONDON SE1 6EF

Your ref : GRO-A

FAO Dr A Rejman

Dear Dr Rejman

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - Blood Transfusion Risk

Further to our recent correspondence we attended a meeting of the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Support Network (CJDSN) on 19 January. At that meeting the subject of blood donation was again raised by relatives of CJD victims.

It became apparent from the discussion that there are no set standards being applied by the local collection centres and the variation ranges from "no implication" to "no donation". This is causing much concern amongst those who have traditionally donated and are now simply confused. In most cases the relationship is either as child of the victim or as sibling. We ourselves are part of what appears to be growing number of parents of victims which represents another class.

Those present at the meeting agreed that we should continue our established dialogue with you to resolve these queries. This only gives greater impetus to the questions we have already raised previously.

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Accordingly we would ask you to give the greatest priority to providing a definitive answer as to who may or may not give blood as a relative of a CJD victim. This should then be promulgated as a **national** policy and introduced into the questioning procedure at donation sessions. If this matter could be resolved quickly we would then be in a position to give quality advice to relatives when they approach the CJDSN for help.

Yours sincerely

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