



VJ/DMW

27th February 1996

Mr. **GRO-A**

GRO-A

Wiltshire

GRO-A

Dear Mr. and Mrs. **GRO-A**

Your letter regarding CJD and Blood Transfusion has finally reached me. I understand that Mrs. **GRO-A** also spoke to Dr. Mainwaring at this Centre some time ago and was given my name.

First of all I apologise for any delay in replying.

I am delighted to hear about your organisation CJDSN and will try and talk to you on the 'phone to see how best we can help each other.

You have been given the wording of our current document on Donor Selection

CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE (CJD)

Action: All individuals who have been treated with extracts derived from human pituitary glands or who have a family history of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease are permanently excluded from donation.

We are assuming that people suffering from CJD will not come forward as donors.

Our mutual problem lies with the definition of Family History.

There is no definition of this currently anywhere. The United States are grappling with the problem just as we are. We have therefore deliberately left it vague on the assumption that if someone volunteers information about a blood relative and CJD they are likely to know what they are talking about.

At the donor interview with our Medical Officer or nurse further questions will be asked and the decision as to whether to accept the donor should be referred to the Consultant in charge of Donor Health at a Transfusion Centre if there is any doubt. Our sessional staff would be expected to exclude a direct blood relative such as parent, sibling or children. It is more difficult with more distant relatives. This is where the advice of your organisation would be more than helpful.

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At donor sessions we cannot take too long to reach decisions and we are certainly not in a position to take blood samples for extensive genetic tests.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr. V. James
Consultant Haematologist
Chairman
Standing Advisory Committee
on the Selection of Donors

cc. Dr. A. Rejman, Department of Health
Dr. E. A. Robinson, Medical Director, National Blood Authority