



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Dear Gordon

SNBTS FACTOR VIII AND FACTOR IX vCJD NOTIFICATION STRATEGY

Thank you for copying me into your letter of 24 October to CMO. In his absence on leave this week I am responding on his behalf. The reason that CMO has not responded to your previous letter is that he is awaiting a response from the Incidents Panel. My understanding as of this week is that Professor Banner will be writing to CMO on this issue.

As you are probably aware, Christopher raised the matter with me a couple of weeks ago. My advice to him was that if Haemophilia Directors feel from a clinical and professional point of view that patients should be told about the SNBTS concentrate used for treatment between 1987 and 1989, then they should proceed to inform them, with appropriate counselling. On the basis of the information available to me, it seems unlikely that the Incidents Panel's view will be at variance with this advice.

It would therefore seem entirely appropriate that you write out to haemophilia patients in a similar manner to last year's communication on the BPL concentrates. Given that this will alert all potential recipients to the issue, I see no reason to use any other mechanism, either at Trust or Scottish level, as suggested in your letter, to make the issue public.

I hope this is helpful.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR A KEEL

Deputy Chief Medical Officer

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cc Professor C A Ludlam
Dr C Swainson
Dr W Anderson
Professor I Franklin

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