Mike McGovern

Notes from coversation this morning with Mike re vCJD and haemophilia

Graham Winyard's previous briefing applies but the position/policy is currently under review by the Department

As we don't currently know whether it can be passed on through blood products and as there is no test and no treatment or prevention, the view is that unless patients ask to be told whether they may be in the group potentially exposed.

The DH has discussed this with the Haemophiliac Society and the UKHCDO (doctors who treat haemophiliacs). They have issued a letter via their treating doctors to all haemophiliacs to make them aware of the issue in an agreed format.

Thus if people want to be told then they can be but they have to realise the consequences of this (possible problems with insurance or mortgages and they will have a duty to inform mortgage companies/insurers).

Advice on this issue was sent to RDs late last year.

General policy is that if a clinician wants to speak to a patient about this then it's up to him/her but our position is that patients should be properly informed about the issue so that they can make an informed choice as to whether they wish to find out whether they received blood products from potential risk batches.

Andrew Morris