

National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit

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26th August 1997

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dr A. Wight,
Senior Medical Officer,
Department of Health,
Skipton House,
80 London Road,
London. SE1 6LW

Dear Ailsa,

New variant CJD and blood donation

As you may recall, I have been quite concerned about the issue of new variant CJD and blood donation for some time and indeed this was discussed at SEAC and the recommendation was made that all products from these blood donations should be traced in order that we get the earliest possible warning of any potential risk. This was also the view I expressed at the WHO meeting earlier this year and again at the recent meeting held at Elephant and Castle regarding the potential risk of new variant CJD in relation to blood. Although one of the new variant CJD blood donors have been included in the limited look-back study this relates only to whole blood donations and not to blood products. A third new variant case has been identified who had previously acted as a blood donor and I really feel that it is now necessary to consider tracing whole blood and blood products from all three of these cases preferably in the near future before any potential information becomes difficult to find or becomes lost.

I am therefore now writing to you with the details of blood donations from the three new variant CJD cases in order that consideration can be given to chasing up detailed information on recipients of whole blood or of blood product. The first patient is named **GRO-A** (**GRO-A**), dob **GRO-A** 54 who donated blood we believe on three occasions first in 1975 when she was living at **GRO-A** Liverpool **GRO-A** and twice in 1987 when she was living at **GRO-A**. The blood was donated a Mount Vernon/Mount Pleasant NHS Blood Transfusion Centre. The date of onset in this patient was in July 1994. The second patient was named **GRO-A** dob **GRO-A** 65 who donated blood on 5 occasions, first in 1989/90 and on the last occasion in 1993. The blood was donated to the Merseyside Mobile Blood Transfusion Service and at that time her address was **GRO-A**. The date of onset of clinical illness in this lady was August 1994. The third patient was called **GRO-A** whose date of birth was **GRO-A** 77. He donated blood to the Blood Transfusion Service at

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Checker Road, Doncaster at the age of 17 in 1995 approximately. His address at that time was either **GRO-A** or **GRO-A** He probably donated on only one occasion and the date of onset of illness was November 1996.

As I explained at the SEAC meeting, I think it is a matter of high priority to trace the uses of these blood donations.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr K.G. Will
Consultant Neurologist

* Onset Subsequently
Changed to
March 1996.