

Our Ref: PLFG/slo/

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Dear Charlie

15 April 2010

Mistaken notification of "at risk" status for vCJD

I write in response to your emailed letter of April 7th. This is also a topic we discussed at the last meeting of the UKHCDO Advisory Board on April 9th.

We have now reviewed all the data relating to Oxford patients and there are two patients who have mistakenly been informed that they are at risk of developing vCJD. They were initially identified as being "at risk" through having had BPL products although it has only just come to light that the only batches they received were derived from US-derived plasma and not British plasma. I would also wish to place on record that I do not accept that their notification reflects an error on behalf of any of the staff here in Oxford. No indication was given with the originally paperwork circulated in 2004 which would have permitted us to make the important but subtle distinction in batch numbers which has only now been drawn to our attention.

Details of the patients are as follows:

1. GRO-A dob GRO-A 1973 NHS No.: GRO-A NHD No.: GRO-A

This lady has type 2B von Willebrand's disease and was treated by us in conjunction with colleagues at Wexham Park Hospital. On reviewing the notes, it would appear that she was given BPL products in 1999 to cover a dental extraction by our colleagues at Wexham Park Hospital. She subsequently received Haemate P from us. I note that she moved to the GRO-C area in June 2007 and I have in our file a copy of correspondence from Nicola Bienz, Consultant Haematologist at Wexham Park Hospital, to Dr MT Macheta, Consultant Haematologist at Blackpool Victoria Hospital about her. Her address at the time was GRO-C but I have had no correspondence about her since then and can not confirm that this is her current address. It would be important for any clinician dealing with her to be aware that she has very significant learning difficulties.

2. GRO-A dob GRO-A 1955 NHS No.: GRO-A NHD No.: GRO-A

This man has mild haemophilia B with a baseline factor IX level of around 9%. Although formally registered with us in Oxford, he is not seen here on a regular basis and, as far as I can see, he was last

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seen here over a decade ago. He is seen on a periodic basis by our colleagues at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and we have on file several correspondence from consultants there such as Sally Chown and Janet Ropner. It would appear that the concentrate he received which led to him being mistakenly labelled as being "at risk" of vCJD was given in Gloucester in 1999 to cover repair of a epigastric hernia.

At this stage, I have not written to either the patients or the consultants dealing with them to let them know of the change in circumstances. This was as you requested, as I know you are keen to cross check records to ensure that these patients might not have been treated elsewhere. I will await further instructions from you as to how and when to contact either the patient or their current medical attendants.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Dr PLF Giangrande
Consultant Haematologist

copy to: Karen Melton Database Manager Oxford Haemophilia & Thrombosis Centre Churchill Hospital

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