

2 March, 2000



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Dear Chitra

re: vCJD

Last week there was an emergency meeting of SEAC and the MSBT, to discuss the implications of a research paper that is shortly to be published in the Lancet from the Institute of Animal Health in England (Christ Bostock in charge). I do not have a pre-print of the paper, neither does SEAC or the MSBT, but the implications of the research work done in mice infected with BSE suggest, perhaps, more strongly than the Brown Paper of last year, that the infective agent for BSE can be transmitted by plasma.

In the light of these emergency meetings the NBS has been tasked, together with the SNBTS, to work up an option appraisal of how best to source clinical FFP and cryo within the UK. We have been asked to include the strong possibility that we have to import clinical FFP from the United States. I think it would be advisable, in these circumstances, if you called together the SACTTI vCJD Sub-Group so that we can have our own expert professional view of this latest publication as soon as it is published.

It would be helpful, provided it is published before 13 March, that this meeting is held prior to 13 March, as that is when the official MSBT meeting is taking place and we will be again discussing this issue and the option appraisal of supply of clinical FFP in the future to the UK.

Many thanks for picking this one up.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

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NOT RELEVANT