

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

DAJ/DMW

27th May 1998

Dr P E Hewitt
North London Blood Centre
Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5BG

Dear Pat

Re: nvCJD cases with a history of blood donation

Many thanks for your letter and 'phone call of 20th May 1998. We have investigated the four recipients in the Trent Region (did I get the impression you thought there were three?). None of them is registered on the Northern Zone PULSE list of donors.

Your last request however to investigate whether it is possible to ensure that these individuals could not register as donors in the future has caused me some problems. The only way that I can think of doing this, suggested by Cath Chapman, is to register them as new donors and permanently exclude them before they have even turned up. This however would be very obvious should they enrol and they would be very likely to enquire why they were excluded. We would then be obliged to inform them of the reason. This may well be a risk worth taking in view of the potential dangers should they donate. If you think we should go on and do this then please let me know. For the time being I have not acted.

One further thing that I considered was that PULSE is, as you know, Zonal. Two of our donors live in the southern part of the Trent Region and it is conceivable that they might donate in either of the other two Zones. Would you consider excluding them similarly to cover the whole of the country?

The four recipients in Trent (rather than three), their ages are 25, 43, 67 and 68, so two of them at least are potential candidates for donation. These two younger individuals live in the southern part of Trent.

27th May 1998

Dr P E Hewitt

Unfortunately we do not have the reason for transfusion on record. We can't tell if this excludes them from donation.

I hope this is helpful. I look forward to hearing from you, particularly if you would like Virge or I to do anything further.

Yours sincerely

Dr D A Jones
Associate Specialist

GRO-C

cc.

Dr V James

Dr C Chapman

Dr A Shepherd

22 MAY 1998



PEH/mm/chapman

20 May 1998

Dr C Chapman
Consultant in Transfusion
Medicine
NBS - Northern,
Newcastle Centre
Holland Drive, Barrack
Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4NQ

Dr Alastair Shepherd
National Blood Service -
Northern Zone
Mersey and North Wales
Centre
West Derby Street
Liverpool L7 8TW

Dr Virge James
Consultant Haematologist
National Blood Service -
Northern Zone
Trent Centre
Longley Lane
Sheffield S5 7JN

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Cath, Alastair and Virge

nvCJD cases with a history of blood donation

You were recently asked to trace the fate of donations given by an individual registered at your Centre as a blood donor, who subsequently developed nvCJD. You have supplied the details of three recipients in your area, documented to have received blood components from the donor at your Centre.

At this week's meeting of SACTTI, concern was expressed over the possibility that the recipients identified in this exercise could themselves be blood donors, or become donors in the future. Although not all recipients are in the age range for active donors, SACTTI felt that it would be wise to ensure that these individuals were not currently donors, pending any decision which may be made by MSBT for future policy.

Could you please, as a matter of priority, establish whether any of the three recipients identified by you are registered as active donors. If so, measures should be taken to ensure that the donations are discarded and not transfused to patients, although there should be no attempt to notify the donor at this point.

The majority of the recipients are of an age which would probably exclude them from registering as donors in the future. Nevertheless, for those individuals who fall within the age limit for donors, and who are not registered as donors, could you please investigate whether it is possible to ensure that these individuals could not register as donors in future.

North London Centre
Colindale Avenue
London NW9 5BG

Tel: 0181 258 2700
Fax: 0181 258 2970

20 May 1998

Please note that I shall be on leave from the 22nd to the 31st May inclusive. Any urgent queries with regard to this letter, which cannot wait until my return should be addressed to Peter Flanagan.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Patricia E Hewitt
Lead Consultant in Transfusion Microbiology

Direct Tel: GRO-C Fax: GRO-C
e-mail: GRO-C

Copy: Dr C Llewellyn (for information)



PEH/mm/jones

20 May 1998

Dr D A Jones
Senior Clinical Medical Officer
Trent Centre
Longley Lane
Sheffield
S5 7JN

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Bing

I am aware that Virge is on leave now for some weeks. I am sending to you a letter addressed to Virge, which requires action before her return. Could I ask you to deal with this matter on her behalf, and then bring it to her attention on her return?

With many thanks.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Patricia E Hewitt
Lead Consultant in Transfusion Microbiology

Direct Tel: GRO-C Fax: GRO-C
e-mail: GRO-C

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Colindale Avenue
London NW9 5BG

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