

Northern Regional Haemophilia Service
Newcastle Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre
Royal Victoria Infirmary
Queen Victoria Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4LP

Ref: JH/LM

Tel: 0191 232 5131
Ext: 24171 / 24170 / 25192
Fax: 0191 230 0651

28 February 2001

Dr. M. F. Laker,
Medical Director,
RVI.


Dear Mike,

Plasma Derived Factor VIII and New Variant CJD

Thank you for your letter. I apologise for the delay as I was waiting to hear back from Frank Hill. For your information I enclose a copy of his letter.

As I understand the sequence of events, there were two notifications in late 1997 from BPL that donors who subsequently died of new variant CJD had contributed to batches of plasma.

There was guidance from the Department of Health and the Lothian Ethics Committee indicating that this information should not be passed on to patients in view of the theoretical nature of the risk involved. I enclose copies of these documents.

I also enclose copies of letters written by Dr. Peter Hamilton and Sister Maureen Fearn expressing unease about this decision.

I am not sure if there is anything further that should be done at the moment. One parent has asked me to send him copies of correspondence in relation to this incident. I thought that I would send him the documents from the department of Health and Lothian Ethics Committee, along with a letter along the lines that locally there was unease about not passing this information on to patients, but that it was difficult to go against the advice received at the time. Please let me know if you think that this is a reasonable approach.

With thanks and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


GRO-C

JOHN HANLEY
Consultant Haematologist
Co-Director, Haemophilia Centre


cc. Dr. P. Hamilton