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ACVSB1/1

TERMS OF REFERENCE1. Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood (ACVSB)

"To advise the Health Departments of the UK on measures to ensure the virological safety of blood, whilst maintaining adequate supplies of appropriate quality for both immediate use and for plasma processing".

Note remit is UK-wide. Our concern is matters of major policy, not the detailed implementation of policy. The intention is that any proposed changes in requirements or practices of one of the main groups (transfusion service, fractionators, regulators) that has major implications for the others are brought to this group first for discussion. Whilst our specific remit is with blood donors, our advice will also be made available to those within the Department who have policy responsibility for tissue and organ donors. Where the advice is clearly not relevant to these other donors, it would be helpful if this could be indicated in the discussions.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF RELATED GROUPS2. Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) and the Biologicals Subcommittee

Gives advice to the Licensing Authority on the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products. The Licensing Authority covers the entire UK. The Medicines Act prohibits consideration of cost, need or supply. Whole blood and cellular components are not considered medicinal products.

3. National Transfusion Directorate and advisory groups

Implements the national strategy for the transfusion service and coordinates the activities of the BTS and the CBLA. England and Wales only, although frequent consultation with Scotland. Concerned with safety and welfare of donors, supply of safe fresh blood and blood components for patients as well as plasma for fractionators; subject to resource constraints.

4. UK Advisory Committee on transfusion transmitted diseases

This new UK group will be considering many of the same issues as the present committee, but only from a transfusion viewpoint.

Sparks for bld donors

5. CJD

Another area where the FDA have pronounced and the UK may appear lagging behind is in the identification and exclusion as donors of human growth hormone recipients. This is an agenda item for this meeting - see paper ACVSB1/6.

6. Other

Depending on the views of members, there could be other items to be brought before this committee, for example in relation to agreed markers of hepatitis B infection, wider aspects of selection of hepatitis low-risk individuals or the place of CMV screening.

● - CMV
● - Parvovirus } additional topics.