



SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Headquarters Unit

Ellen's Glen Road
Edinburgh EH17 7QT
Tel. No. 031-664 2317
Fax No. 031-658 1639

2 Forrest Road
Edinburgh
EH2 2QN
Tel. No. 031-220 2330
Fax No. 031-220 1893

Please reply to:

Ellen's Glen Road

JDC/MM

03 August 1989

Dr W Whitrow
Dr S J Urbaniak
Dr E Brookes
Dr D B L McClelland
Dr R Mitchell
Dr R J Perry



Dear Colleague

NANB (Chiron) Testing: Update

You will, I'm sure, be receiving numerous messages on this topic over the next months, because I now believe that it is only a matter of time before we commence this new testing programme. Whilst I have no idea when we will start I'd back the horse with "sometime after April 1990" on its nose!

I think it is important to keep you fully briefed and the current salient points are as follows:

1. The decision to commence testing will be a UK one and will be made by the UK Departments of Health.
2. The start date for commencing full testing will, as with HIV-1, also be a matter for central government decision, with, of course, appropriate consultation with the UK BTS Directors.
3. Ruthven Mitchell will be our professional link person with colleagues south of the border and WBTS microbiology testing team will be spear-heading the first look at the Chiron Testing System, both with respect to prevalence data and a technical overview of the systems (I understand, for instance, that the test takes a full 3 hours).
4. I've asked Jack Gillon to put some thoughts together with regard to donor implications/management etc (test will probably be positive 0.5%-1.0%) and in due course I will come back to you on this matter.

B/ 16

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

5. I've asked Mike Moores to give some thought on data handling (Ortho apparently have a software package on offer but it is possible our existing systems will more than suffice).
6. In due course we will have to consider any technical training needs, but this could form part of a "run up" period before the official "test day".
7. I have started a battle (with Ortho) on confirmation testing. I intend to take this cause as high as I can within the Departments of Health. Ortho's current proposal (we send your sera to Ortho (USA)) are unacceptable to me.

More anon.

Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

cc Dr A MacIntyre (SHHD)
Dr J Gillon

SC Dr Gunson for info