

Item 3b of 13/3/84

DRAFT OF LEAFLET ON AIDS - DESIGNED TO BE SENT TO
BLOOD DONORS WITH ROUTINE CALL UP LETTERS
DURING 1984

BB 17/4 2/84

Information
 AIDS - ~~INTRODUCTION~~ FOR BLOOD DONORS

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a rare disease that has been recognised only recently. Increasing numbers of new cases are being reported and many patients have died ~~of AIDS.~~ *patients with aids*

AIDS may be transmitted by blood.

This leaflet answers some questions about AIDS. Please read it. It may help you to help us to reduce the possible risk of transmitting AIDS by blood transfusion.

Dr. Lamb - We are at risk if we do not read out ASAP.

- Would go out with normal decision cards.

Agreed go for mail drop

Finite comments over next 2 weeks. - Irish note will be circulated by this time.

WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is a disease which damages the body's defence mechanisms. As a result patients suffer from serious infections, and may die of infection. AIDS patients may also suffer from unusual types of cancer.

WHAT CAUSES AIDS AND IS IT INFECTIOUS?

Aids may be caused by a virus but nobody knows this for certain. If a virus is the cause, it does not seem to be transmitted easily by normal social contacts. However, the evidence available suggests AIDS may be transmitted by sexual contact with an affected person, or by sharing a needle for intravenous drug administration.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Most of our information comes from America since most cases have occurred there. AIDS has occurred mainly in these groups:-

- . Intravenous drug users
- . Homosexual men
- . People from Haiti and some areas of Equatorial Africa
- . People who have had sexual contact with persons at risk in the above groups or with a person found to have AIDS.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AIDS?

Please remember that many of the symptoms listed occur in many conditions other than AIDS. However, if you have them it is important that we don't take your blood.

- . Swollen glands in the neck, armpits or groin.
- . Unexpected weight loss (more than 10 pounds over two months or less).
- . Unexpected fever.
- . Sweating at night.
- . Cough which is persistent and not due to smoking or flu.
- . Diarrhoea which is persistent and unexplained.
- . Pink or purple raised or flat skin blotches.

CAN AIDS BE TRANSMITTED BY BLOOD TRANSFUSION OR BLOOD PRODUCTS?

Probably it can. This is exceedingly rare following transfusion of blood itself. However, a small number of patients with a blood disorder called haemophilia have contracted AIDS. These patients receive frequent doses of a protein (called Factor 8) which is made from blood plasma obtained from many donors. If one of these donors has AIDS, the Factor 8 treatment could transmit AIDS.

HOW CAN THE RISK OF AIDS BE REDUCED?

At present we cannot test a donor's blood for AIDS. Until there is a test, and until we know more about the disease

- . please do not give blood if you have symptoms which occur in patients with AIDS,
- . please do not give if you are in one of the above groups considered to be at risk of exposure to AIDS.

CAN BLOOD DONORS GET AIDS FROM DONATING BLOOD

No. There are no diseases transmitted by giving blood. All the materials used for collecting blood are sterile and are used only once.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AIDS AND BLOOD DONATION?

From your local Blood Transfusion Centre. Contact the Regional Director or the Doctor in Charge of the Blood Donor Programme.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE AND SCOTTISH NATIONAL
BLOOD TRANSUSION SERVICE 1984
