



SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Dear Doctor

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

The enclosed paper "AIDS - General Information for Doctors" has been prepared with the assistance of the Health Departments' Expert Advisory Group on AIDS. The paper includes sections on groups at risk (p 3), clinical presentation and diagnosis (p 4) and guidance measures to control the spread of the infection (p 9) as well as other information. Also enclosed is a paper prepared by the PHLS Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre in London which gives a detailed account of the epidemiology of the condition.

While there have been only 4 cases of AIDS registered to date in Scotland, there have been 159 cases in the United Kingdom and it is likely that AIDS and the other manifestations of the causal virus will become more frequent and widespread in the future. There is considerable ignorance and anxiety in the public in general and in particular among those at special risk which has not been helped by some of the reporting in the media. Not a great deal has yet appeared in text books about AIDS and therefore I hope that you will find this information useful.

You will also wish to know that a leaflet "Some Facts about AIDS", prepared for the general public by the Health Education Council and reprinted by the Scottish Health Education Group, is available from the Health Education Officer of your Health Board.

New regulations (Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1985) have been introduced in England and Wales to cover the rare and very exceptional circumstances when a patient with AIDS might have, in the interest of public health, to be compulsorily detained in hospital. In Scotland this eventuality is covered by existing legislation so that new regulations are not being introduced here.

Any queries relating to this letter should be directed to Dr R G Covell, Room 2, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh (031-556 8501 ext [REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Chief Medical Officer

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