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RESTRICTED - POLICY

NOTES OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FROM THE SECOND MEETING OF

HEPATITIS C LOOK BACK WORKING PARTY

Held 24 February 1995**Present**

A list of those attending is attached.
Apologies were received from Prof Zuckerman and Dr Rejman

Minutes of first meeting

These were agreed

Matters arising

The Chairman reviewed developments since the last meeting. Feedback from the Field was largely supportive of the decision to go ahead with the look back exercise and the advice made available by EPINET. Some had not received this and others were concerned about possible cost implications. There was an interest in using data emerging for epidemiological purposes. This was sensible but it was more important to press ahead with the task.

Dr Metters had been in touch with PHLs and agreement had been reached with the NBA over the way in which the results of tests undertaken on patients referred by GPs etc and found HCV antibody positive might be reported to NBA. PHLs proposed not to make any charges for such tests carried out up to 10 February. They were considering whether this date might be extended.

He had not been able to contact Dr Bogle to seek any further views from GMSC but would try again when Dr Bogle returned to the country.

Dr Robinson reported that the preliminary procedural guidance had been received by the Transfusion Services who were proceeding accordingly. There had been well over 12,000 calls to the help line but these were now tailing off. They might be triggered again any time the media ran a feature on hepatitis C.

Dr Gillan said that progress in Scotland was similar to that in England. Prof. Cash's working party had met and were getting hepatologists involved.

Guidance on look back

There was detailed discussion of the draft procedural guidance. All the points raised have been carried forward into the revised draft to be considered at the next meeting.

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18 MAR '95 10:55 AM FROM SIR FLEWELL

Prof. Cash had raised a number of points all of which had been dealt with. It would not be possible to start the next phase of the look back on March 1 as he had suggested but it was hoped that final guidance could be issued shortly after the next meeting.

It was important to get legal opinion on the drafts for publication. NBA had already received legal advice on the drafts they had submitted.

The guidance should be written in as simple a form as possible. Whilst it should be focused on the look back exercise on blood transfusion recipients a note should be included on the risk situation for those who had received blood products or solid organs or human tissue. It might be helpful for the transfusion centres to gather consultants from local blood banks together to brief them on the procedure and to identify any special issues.

Although the look back procedure would provide a UK-wide approach there needed to be some flexibility to acknowledge variations between the four countries. The pro forma should be provided in order to record as much of the relevant information as possible. It was accepted that in some cases doctors might not complete all the details requested.

Guidance on counselling / Guidance on treatment options

There was detailed discussion of the two papers presented by Dr Gillon and Prof Thomas. It was agreed that they should be merged into one piece of guidance covering both aspects. Otherwise there would inevitably be a certain amount of overlap.

The text was edited to ensure consistency between the various documents and in some places it was simplified to make it suitable for those who had only a limited knowledge of the subject.

All other comments were fed into the revised version to be considered at the next meeting.

Guidelines on the diagnosis and management of chronic disease in haemophilia.

Members took note of this paper which had been prepared by the UKHCDO.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the working party's business should be the principle item on the agenda of the full MSBT meeting which had been set for 14 March 1995.

CA OPU
3 March 1995

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SECOND MEETING OF HEPATITIS C WORKING PARTY

24 February 1995

Attendance List

Dr Metters (Chairman)

Dr D Gorst
Dr R Mitchell
Dr E A Robinson
Prof Howard Thomas
Dr R Warren
Dr J Gillon
Dr A Keele
Dr E Mitchell
Dr D Westmoreland

Departmental officials

Dr H Nicholas
Dr N Melia
R M T Scofield