



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

National Health Service in Scotland Management Executive

NHS:
MEL(1993)3

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT ON THE USE OF PHLEBOTOMISTS IN SCOTTISH HOSPITALS - AMENDMENT

Summary

1. MEL(1992)7 issued on 30 June 1992 brought the Advisory Council's Report on the Use of Phlebotomists in Scottish Hospitals to the attention of Health Board General Managers. Under paragraph 18 of the Report, it is recommended that phlebotomists should not be allowed to take blood for cross matching purposes.

2. The Scottish Joint Consultants Committee (SJCC) has asked that this restriction be removed since it would severely limit the use of phlebotomists, and would not assist in reducing the workload of junior doctors. The Scottish Haematologists' Group and the Scottish Affairs Committee of the Royal College of Pathologists share this view.

3. Accordingly, the Advisory Council has agreed that this limitation should be removed and the recommended good practice is that phlebotomists should be allowed to take blood for cross matching purposes. The second sentence of paragraph 18 of the Report should therefore be amended to read:-

"Blood for purposes of cross matching however, can be taken by phlebotomists or by the medical staff requesting transfusion."

Action

4. This amendment should be drawn to the attention of Unit General Managers.

Yours sincerely

G W TUCKER
Directorate of Strategic Management
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13 January 1993

Addressees

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To be copied to
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