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National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Colleague

**AIDS/HIV INFECTED HEALTH CARE WORKERS
GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INFECTED
HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

Summary

1. I enclose copies of guidance on the management of HIV infected health care workers, which is a revision of an interim document published under the same title in April 1993.

Background

2. The guidance includes and endorses the revised ethical statements from the General Medical Council, the General Dental Council and the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, and should be read together with "AIDS-HIV Infected Health Care Workers: Practical Guidance on Notifying Patients" published in April 1993.

3. This revised document incorporates constructive comment received during consultation within the professions following publication of the April 1993 interim document, and has the approval of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS and the UK Advisory Panel for Health Care Workers Infected with Bloodborne Viruses. The principal changes to the guidance are included at Annex A.

4. Similar guidelines are being published in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

25 March 1994

Addressees

For action:

General Managers of Health Boards
General Manager, Common Services Agency
General Manager, State Hospital
General Manager, Health Education Board for Scotland
Chief Executives and Designate of NHS Trusts

For information:

CAMOs/Directors of Public Health Medicine
Health Board AIDS Co-ordinators
Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health
Medical Directors, NHS Trusts
Directors of HIV Reference and Regional Virus Laboratories
Deans of the Medical and Dental Schools
Heads of Nursing Departments at HEIs
Heads of Podiatry Departments
Committees of Scottish Higher Education
Principals

Enquiries to:

Dr R Skinner
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Tel: 031 244 2296
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or

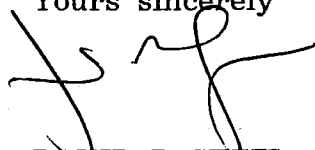
Dr P Madden
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Action

5. We have enclosed sufficient copies of the guidance to issue to all GPs, Dentists, and other relevant health care workers. They should also be distributed to relevant staff including the local occupational health physician and chief professional officers.

6. For orders of 5 copies or less of the guidance, contact Ms A McCann, Room 10, St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG. For orders of 6 copies or more, contact BAPS, Health Publications Unit, DSS Distribution Centre, Heywood Stores, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancs OL10 2PZ quoting serial no HSG(94)16.

Yours sincerely



DAVID R STEEL
Director of Administration

**AIDS/HIV INFECTED HEALTH CARE WORKERS
GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF INFECTED HEALTH CARE
WORKERS**

1. **Principal Changes**

- The concept of **Exposure Prone Procedures** is precisely defined and it is emphasised that such procedures are performed by only a minority of all health care workers (para 3.3-3.6).
- The **Role of the Occupational Health Physician** is clarified and expanded (para 4.3, 4.6 and Section 6).
- The Chief Administrative Medical Officer is identified as the person who should be notified if an HIV infected health care worker has performed exposure prone procedures (para 4.5).
- The **UK Advisory Panel** should always be consulted by a CAMO/DPH before proceeding with a lookback exercise, even if there seems to be no doubt that exposure prone procedures have been performed (para 4.5). The Panel should also be consulted in cases of doubt. Panel advice should **only** be sought through its Medical Secretariat and members should not be approached directly. The **medical secretariat to the Panel** is provided by:

Dr Susan Turnbull
Room 727, Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
LONDON SE1 8UG
Tel: 071 972 4349/4378

- **Students in training** should be apprised of the contents of the document, which applies to them during training and may have implications for their future choice of career (para 4.1 and 5.2).
- **Key recommendations**, listed at the beginning of the document, are highlighted throughout the main text in bold.

2. Your attention is drawn in particular to the **Key Recommendations**, and to the need for Health Boards and Trusts to:-

- **maintain** the awareness of **new and existing staff** of this guidance, and of the statements of the professional regulatory bodies, including agency staff, independent contractors and visiting health care workers (para 5.1).
- ensure that all staff are aware of how to contact the Chief Administrative Medical Officer who should be notified by all HIV infected health care workers who have performed **exposure prone procedures** (para 4.5).
- identify a suitable **specialist occupational health physician** who should be available to general medical and dental practitioners (NHS and private) as well as to hospital staff for consultation (para 6.4).

- make every effort to arrange suitable alternative work and retraining opportunities if there is a need for the duties of an HIV infected health care worker to be modified (para 5.4).