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THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

NHS
MEL(1995)60

National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

St. Andrew's House
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

7 September 1995

Dear Colleague

CARD AND INFORMATION SHEET FOR ASPLENIC PATIENTS

1. This letter advises Health Boards and NHS Trusts of a new patient card and information sheet for asplenic patients which is designed to help reduce the morbidity and mortality from overwhelming sepsis in asplenic patients by:-

- increasing awareness of the problem among patients and doctors;
- encouraging prophylactic measures including appropriate immunisations and prophylactic antibiotics;
- ensuring medical attention is sought promptly in the event of symptoms of infection.

It is intended that the card will be carried by patients at all times.

Action

2. Attached is a small supply of the cards and information sheets which have been produced by the UK Health Departments, in association with the British Committee for Standards in Haematology Clinical Haematology Task Force.

3. We will shortly be sending you bulk supplies of the cards and leaflets and I would be grateful if you would arrange to distribute them initially to consultant haematologists. As these measures are relevant for any patient who has had their spleen removed in the past, as well as for new referrals, it is essential that doctors, including general practitioners, are aware of them. Your assistance in this regard would be appreciated.

4. If you have any enquiries please contact Anne Dagg on 0131-244-2278.

Yours sincerely

DAVID R STEEL
Director of Corporate Affairs

*Bottom of list
Contact Miss A Dagg etc
for card & leaflet
examples*

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives,
NHS Trusts

For information:
General Manager,
Common Services
Agency

General Manager,
Health Education Board
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State Hospitals Board
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