

P. Stevenson
1.07.

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Scottish Home and Health Department
St Andrew's House Edinburgh EH1 3DE

Telephone 031-556 8501 ext 2950 (Mr Roberts)
ext 2643 (Miss M I Pollock)

Your reference

To Regional Hospital Boards

Our reference HOS /26/8/7 Pt A

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SCOTTISH HOSPITAL MEMORANDUM

AUSTRALIA (HEPATITIS-ASSOCIATED) ANTIGEN

1. In 1970 an Advisory Group was set up jointly by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Scottish Home and Health Department to advise on the testing of blood donations and specimens for Australia (hepatitis-associated) Antigen and its antibody and advance copies of its Report were circulated to Regional Hospital Boards in July 1971. Since then the Report has been the subject of consultation and has been revised; the version issued with this memorandum incorporates modifications of the earlier text particularly in paragraphs 10, 42, 43 and 55-61.
2. Blood donations have been tested in Scottish Blood Transfusion Centres since October 1970 and Regional Hospital Boards have already been asked to consider the implications of, in particular, paragraph 52 of the Report for their regions.
3. Attention is drawn to the advice that tests for Australia (hepatitis-associated) Antigen in specimens other than blood donations should be undertaken in laboratories where there is a consultant virologist. Advice is given on certain aspects of safety in hospital laboratories handling blood samples and hospital authorities are asked to give particular attention to these recommendations.
4. The attention of all consultants in laboratory medicine should also be drawn to the Report.

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