

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride

HSS(MD)13/2012

Chief Executives, Health & Social Care Trusts
Chief Executive, HSCB
Chief Executive, PHA
Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, PHA
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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)13/2012
Date: 4 April 2012

Dear Colleague

USE OF IMPORTED FRESH FROZEN PLASMA (FFP) TO TREAT THOSE BORN ON OR AFTER 1 JANUARY 1996 AND ADULT PATIENTS WITH TTP

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of new advice on the use of imported fresh frozen plasma (FFP) to treat those **born on or after 1 January 1996**, and **adult patients with TTP**.

At its meeting on 9 March 2012, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) considered the measure that has been in place since August 2002, which provides that imported fresh frozen plasma (FFP) should be used for all recipients born on or after 1 January 1996 (ie those unlikely to have been exposed to BSE through diet). **SaBTO confirmed that this measure should continue, even when those recipients become 16 years old or more.**

SaBTO also confirmed **adult patients with thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) should continue to receive imported FFP.**

It is for healthcare providers to decide whether imported FFP should be used for other recipients.

This may initially raise some operational issues for hospitals as those born on/after 1 January 1996 begin to be treated in adult units. It would be wrong to abandon this protective measure, however, just because those recipients have reached a particular age. As a result of the measures currently in place, there has been no known transmission of vCJD through a blood transfusion since 1999.

The minutes of the meeting on 9 March, at which this matter was discussed, will be published on SaBTO's website shortly.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer

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This letter is available on the DHSSPS website at
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/professional/cmo_communications.htm
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