

1 in 88 people in London have viral hepatitis
Poor testing and vaccination results in 1.5 million worldwide deaths a year
London has the poorest testing and vaccination record of any western Capital

Mr Paul Desmond
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31st August 2011

Dear General Practitioner or Practice Manager,

Hepatitis B vaccination for Police Community Support Officers

We are writing to offer guidance to general practitioners on vaccinating individuals who may be at risk of hepatitis B (HBV) infection as employees of the Police Force.

Special Constables and Community Support Officers who provide an ever growing contribution to our national policing effort, often as a first point of contact, may regularly experience exposure to patients' blood. Special Constables and Community Support Officers provide an invaluable, often life-saving service, to millions each year. However, the current arrangements for provision of HBV vaccination have left most, up to 90%, unable to obtain HBV vaccination to date.

We attach a completed 'at risk' Control of substances hazardous to health or assessment form that we believe puts forward the case for providing these officers with the HBV vaccination quickly. Especially in light of the recent explosion of violence across the Capital.

1 in 35 standard officers had evidence of infection before vaccination programmes in 1990. Our criminal population is a rising 1 in 12 HBV infected.

We recommend your practice vaccinate these individuals, if they request it, in line with this assessment as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Paul Desmond
Sarah Matthews
Charles Gore

Executive Director
Media Director
President

Hepatitis B Foundation
The British Liver Trust
World Hepatitis Alliance

PS. The above was written and worded for us all by the Office of Anne Milton Minister for Public Health in April 2011 to help speed these vaccinations.