

30 It was agreed that the Committee was to defer from offering advice until more information was available.

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (ME) AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION (ACVSB 9/10)

31 Dr Pickles said that it had been suggested that the Department should introduce routine testing of blood donations for ME to prevent transmission of the infection(s) responsible for this disorder. It was feasible that infection may be transmitted to transfusion recipients, a small proportion of whom might develop chronic symptoms themselves.

32 It was agreed that the evidence available did not support the introduction of a test. The Committee, however, would continue to watch any developments with interest.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

33 A paper on Plasma Notifications (ACVSB 9/15) was tabled and it was agreed that full consideration would be given to it at a later meeting.

34 The Chairman said that the CMO had expressed concern about unnecessary single unit transfusions. Information on the frequency of this practice was not held centrally. A recent series of articles in the BMJ should have had the effect of discouraging these transfusions but the Committee was invited to consider if further action was required.