

From the Chief Medical Officer & the Chief Nursing Officer
Dr Michael McBride & Mr Martin Bradley



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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To: Chief Executives HSS Boards & Trusts
Directors of Public Health HSS Boards
Medical Directors HSS Trusts
Consultant Obstetricians
Consultant GUM Physicians
Consultant Microbiologists and Virologists
Consultant Infectious Disease Physicians
CCDCs
Directors of Nursing/Chief Nurse HSS Boards
Director of Nursing HSS Trusts
Midwifery Managers HSS Trusts for circulation to
Midwives
Director, NIBTS

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: MB97-06
Date: 11 October 2006

Dear Colleague

ANTENATAL INFECTIONS SCREENING PROGRAMME REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT OF HIV RESULTS

Background

Following a review of the management of HIV results within the antenatal infection screening programme a number of changes have been made to the current system for reporting results. These changes have been agreed with the Regional Antenatal Infectious Screening Group, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) and the Regional Virus Laboratory (RVL).

Summary

The changes drawn to your attention are:

1. NIBTS will issue a hard copy for confirmed HIV positive results, in confidence, to the woman's Obstetric Consultant and the named Lead Midwife for screening in that Maternity Unit. Previously NIBTS only issued hard copy results for negative test outcomes.
2. If a test result remains reactive but unconfirmed, RVL will request the Maternity Unit to take a second blood sample from the woman and will provide a confirmed result from this sample

3. RVL will issue a hard copy result to Maternity Units for all tests referred to their laboratory, including the initial reactive unconfirmed result.
4. NIBTS will, from 1 November 2006, be carrying out Hepatitis B, Rubella and HIV testing on the same blood sample.

Action

HSS Trusts are asked to ensure that their staff are made aware of these changes. All HIV screening tests and results should be managed in line with the attached protocol and in keeping with advice given by the Regional Virology Laboratory.

If you require further information, please contact:

Ms Jackie McGeagh
Regional Antenatal Screening Co-ordinator
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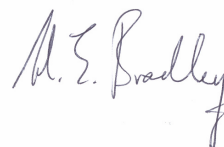
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Yours sincerely



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Chief Medical Officer



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Chief Nursing Officer

cc: Members of the Regional Antenatal Infection Screening Group