

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

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To: Regional General Managers  
District General Managers

5 April 1988

Dear General Manager

**WORKLOADS ON GUM CLINICS**

I am writing to let you know about a small team that has been established with the agreement of the joint NHS/DHSS Working Group on the Implications of AIDS for the NHS to report on the workloads on GUM clinics. The full terms of reference are:

To examine current and forecast workloads on GUM clinics, taking account of AIDS and other STDs, and to recommend any action which may need to be taken on manpower (including nursing manpower), training, resources and accommodation.

The establishment of the team was the result of growing concern within the Department about rising pressures on GUM clinics. Workloads were already increasing rapidly long before the advent of HIV infection, and requests for counselling and HIV antibody tests have added substantially to those workloads. In December 1986 the Secretary of State wrote to all district health authority Chairmen drawing their attention to the additional pressures on GUM clinics that public awareness and concern about AIDS would bring and stressing the need for these clinics to be provided with adequate resources. Since then, of course, the scale of the problem has risen and this has highlighted the need for a study of the way clinics are coping with the pressures.

The team undertaking the study has therefore been asked to visit a selection of GUM clinics over the course of 2-3 months beginning in April. Because of this limited timescale it is unlikely that the team will be able to visit more than about 10 per cent of the clinics in the country, but it is hoped to ensure that a visit is made to at least one clinic in every region. It must be stressed that the team is not an inspectorate and will not be compiling reports on individual clinics. Rather, members have been asked to produce a quick assessment of the situation across the country as a whole and recommend any action they consider necessary.

The team will consists of four members:

- Mr A Monks, a retired district general manager who will lead the team;
- Dr N Thin, consultant at the Department of Genito Urinary Medicine, St Thomas' Hospital and the Chief Medical Officer's adviser on genito-urinary medicine;
- Mrs S Trotter, a health adviser at the Oxford GUM clinic, and
- Miss D Pryce, a nurse manager with experience in this field.

I trust they can be assured of full support and co-operation.

I shall be writing again to the Districts which will receive a visit with further details once the team members have agreed their programme. In the meantime, I should be grateful if you would ensure that relevant medical and nursing advisers are made aware of the survey. I am writing separately to all consultants in charge of GUM clinics.

This Executive Letter expires three months from the date shown above.

Yours faithfully



PAUL CURD  
Secretary to the  
Working Group