



Memorandum

File

Date June 21, 1983

From EIS Officer, Hospital Infections Program

Subject Precautions for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

To Dr. James W. Curran
Director, AIDS Activity, Center for Infectious Disease

Within the past three to four weeks we have seen an increase in both the frequency and the stridency of telephone and written inquiries regarding prevention of transmission of AIDS within the hospital. I understand that this phenomenon has also been noted in other areas throughout the center. While we may be dealing with a temporary surge of anxiety resulting from increased media attention, I would like to suggest that we establish a means of improving communication among all those persons at the center to whom such inquiries may be addressed. I think that this could take the form of a working group with representation from AIDS Activity, Office of Biosafety, Hospital Infections Program, Division of Host Factors, Division of Viral Diseases, and others whom you may deem appropriate. While I am reluctant to increase the number of meetings which we must all attend, I am equally concerned that in an issue surrounded by so much public attention and anxiety, our response to inquiries be coordinated, prompt and consistent. This kind of working group would allow us to combine expertise from different areas and consolidate those recommendations which we have already made. Relative to issues which we have not addressed, we would be able to submit these questions for review in a careful and deliberate manner by the working group, so as to arrive at a reasonable and practical approach.

I would be happy to discuss this proposal with you further at your convenience.

Steven L. Solomon, M.D

cc:
Dr. John Richardson
Dr. James Hughes