

HTA communications report 1 May – 30 May 2008

Media and articles

Coverage resulting from proactive media work

Following last month's press release on the new rules for cord blood collection, several follow-up articles were published during May.

The Independent, "Use of DIY stem cell blood kits curbed" (1 May)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-wellbeing/health-news/use-of-diy-stem-cell-blood-kits-curbed-818759.html>

Bionews, "Badge of Honour or Protective Shield? Are the HTA the new arbiters of the cord blood industry?" (6 May)

<http://www.bionews.org.uk/commentary.lasso?storyid=3821>

Coverage linked to the work of the HTA

Presumed consent

Australia: The Queensland Government took its first steps towards the possible introduction of an opt-out system for organ donation.

TV NZ, Queensland moves on organ donation (1 May)

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/536641/1757685>

Living organ donation

A nationwide two year study will investigate why so few people from ethnic communities donate organs.

BBC, "My father is giving me a kidney" (30 May)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7398896.stm>

Research

A recent report in the Daily Mail highlighted how an NHS hospital was using new mothers' placentas in the development of cosmetic products.

Daily Mail, "How the NHS 'sold' my placenta to a luxury cosmetics firm instead of using it for medical research" (17 May)

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=566936&in_page_id=1770

Consent

The GMC has published new guidance for doctors on consent and decision-making, which will come into effect on 2 June.

GMC, Consent: patients and doctors making decisions together (21 May)

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/news/index.asp#ConsentGuidance>

Meetings and events

2 May 2008 – Sandy Mather attended the Hampton Implementation Review workshop at the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

6 May 2008 – Shirley Harrison attended the Organ Donation Taskforce meeting, London.

13 May 2008 – Adrian McNeil attended a Medical Research Council workshop on regulation and biomedical research, London.

14 May 2008 – El-Nasir Lalani spoke on the HTA, Human Tissue Act and codes of practice at the Pan-Birmingham Cancer Network.

19 May 2008 – HTA workshop on directed deceased donation, London.

20 May 2008 – Christiane Niederlaender attended the Governing Genetic Databases Law workshop on the theme of 'tissue and data regulation', Oxford.

29–30 May 2008 – Sandy Mather attended the EC meeting of Competent Authorities for tissues and cells, Brussels.

Staff update

Sarah Tilsed has joined the HTA as Regulation Assistant.

During this period the following people left the HTA: Dianne Wood (Regulation Manager), Elliot Lawrence (Regulation Manager), Sarah Beyler (Communications Assistant) and Funso Akande (Regulation Assistant).