

From the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Kenneth Calman, MD PhD FRCS (Glas, ed) FRCP (Lond, Ed) FRCGHP FRCR MFCM FRSE ... HIV & AIDS, the issues : Dear Colleague, "HIV and AIDS - the issues" education pack for hospital doctors ...

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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE
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Richmond House
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Dear Colleague,

"HIV AND AIDS - THE ISSUES" EDUCATION PACK FOR HOSPITAL DOCTORS

I am writing to inform you of the imminent arrival of this pack in you local Postgraduate Medical Centre or Hospital Library.

The pack was developed by the Department of Health in consultation with members of the Royal Colleges, British Medical Association, British Postgraduate Medical Federation and the National Association of Clinical Tutors. It is directed primarily at hospital doctors whose practice does not involve the management of people with HIV/AIDS. The materials provided in the pack are designed to help them prepare teaching programmes including lectures for medical teams and a range of health care workers. Hopefully the pack will also prove useful to other teachers in the health care field including those with experience in HIV/AIDS.

The pack deals mainly with the general and often more complex aspects of HIV/AIDS such as diagnosis, counselling and testing, consent, confidentiality, sexuality and infection control. Knowledge of these issues is critical in the proper management of people requiring investigation for possible HIV infection. It does not examine in detail the treatment of patients already diagnosed with HIV infection or AIDS since this is a specialist area where clinical practice changes rapidly.

The principles underlying the management of patients with HIV and AIDS are common to many other conditions especially infectious diseases and how these issues are handled in hospital has application across all disciplines.

Use of the Pack

The pack contains 9 case history based modules which serve to raise the major issues and provide specific supporting information. The histories do not necessarily represent good practice in the selected disciplines, rather they illustrate points leading to informed discussion of specific aspects of HIV/AIDS. In addition the pack has a resource module containing the major guidance documents on HIV/AIDS produced by the Department, GMC, BMA and Royal Colleges. The resource module also includes an "issues" section which provides quick information on a range of topics with references for further exploration and a list of helpful local and national resources.

To use the pack, select a case history module and the resource module. This allows the presenter to prepare an authoritative range of teaching options. Further description of the pack is given in the accompanying flier.

I hope you will find this pack useful and I recommend it to you.

Kenneth C. Calman

Dr Kenneth C Calman
Chief Medical Officer