

Infected Blood Support – planned timetable for delivering increased support payments

Introduction

This update provides information on the Scottish Government's plans for delivery of infected blood support, both via interim arrangements through the Skipton Fund and MFET and through the new Scottish scheme. These changes will deliver the key financial recommendations of the Independent Financial Review Group. A number of elements of this timetable are still dependent on other parties so unfortunately we cannot guarantee that delivery will be able to happen on the specified dates.

Key Dates

- Autumn 2016 (approx. October) – Skipton Fund and MFET to begin paying out increased annual payments to those already receiving them – we expect these payments to be backdated to 1 April 2016. There should not be a need to apply for this. For those living beneficiaries who were coinfecting with HIV and Hepatitis C, but currently at Stage 1 of the Skipton Fund, they will be moved to Stage 2 and therefore receive £50,000 and start receiving annual payments for Hepatitis C (also backdated to April 2016).
- Autumn 2016 (approx. October) – Skipton Fund to write to those who are currently at Stage 1, asking them to confirm e.g. bank account details. Once confirmation is received, they are expected to begin paying out the additional £30,000 lump sums to reflect additional health impacts, in the order they receive confirmation (note - it may take some time to process these payments if large numbers of people respond at the same time). Note – in some cases they may not have up to date contact details for Stage 1 beneficiaries; we will also ask them to make a form available online for those individuals to complete in order to receive the £30,000.
- Early 2017 – existing schemes are likely to write to those receiving annual payments, along with others registered with the schemes, to seek their consent for transferring their records to the new Scottish scheme.
- April 2017 – the new Scottish scheme, run by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS), will begin paying out funds. It will automatically begin paying annual payments to those previously receiving them through the UK schemes (if they have given consent to their details being transferred) as well as opening to new registrations. It will also begin processing further applications from those currently at Stage 1 who have not already received the £30,000 lump sum from the Skipton Fund.
- April 2017 – the Scottish scheme will receive and process applications and begin payments to eligible widows, widowers and civil partners of those who have died where their spouse/civil partner either had HIV or was at Stage 2 of the Skipton Fund. (There may also be an opportunity in future for widows/widowers of those who died at Stage 1 to apply where there is evidence that their spouse died as a

result of their infection.) These payments will be 75% of what their spouse/civil partner would have been entitled to if they were still alive. We hope to make application forms available in advance of April so those eligible can submit their application early and have it processed quickly.

- April 2017 – the Scottish scheme will also begin accepting applications for the new Support and Assistance grants scheme. We hope to make the scheme criteria and application forms available in advance of April so people can begin preparing their applications. Until then, those affected should continue to apply to the existing discretionary schemes (Caxton Foundation, Macfarlane Trust or Eileen Trust) if they need financial support.

Scottish Government, July 2016