

Addendum to the Specification for the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (the “Addendum”)

Parity Transitional Arrangements

1. This Addendum has been agreed between the Department for Health and Social Care (“DHSC”) and NHS Business Services Authority (“NHSBSA”). It supplements the existing Specification for the England Infected Blood Support Scheme (“EIBSS”) as agreed between the two parties in August 2018 (the “Specification”).
2. The definitions set out in the Specification shall apply to this Addendum. The definitions of this Addendum are set out below. If there is any conflict between the terms of this Addendum and the Specification, then the terms of this Addendum will override those of the Specification.

Definitions

Term	Definition
AHO	Any of the Macfarlane Trust, the Skipton Fund Ltd, MFET Ltd, the Eileen Trust and the Caxton Foundation, known collectively as the Alliance House Organisations.
Bereaved Partner	A person who was married, in a civil partnership or a long-term (at least 2 years) co-habiting relationship with an Infected Person at the time of the Infected Person’s death. ¹
Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiary	An individual who is registered with EIBSS, as a bereaved partner.
Current Primary Beneficiary	An individual who was registered with EIBSS on 25 March 2021 as an infected individual; or had applied to EIBSS on or before 25 March 2021 and are subsequently accepted; and was alive on 25 March 2021.
Income Top-Up (ITU)	A means tested discretionary monthly payment to increase household income to help with general living costs. ²
ITU Protected Payment	A payment to ensure individual beneficiaries are not made worse-off by the replacement of ITU payments with the bereaved partner annual payments.
Infected Person	Individual who is accepted by NHSBSA as having been infected with HIV and/or Hepatitis C as a result of treatment with NHS-supplied blood or blood products in England or while serving in the armed forces.

¹ A person is not a Bereaved Partner if they did not meet the above description at the time of the Infected Person’s death, for example because they were divorced, their civil partnership had been dissolved, or they were separated.

² An assessment is made of household income and if the income is below set thresholds a beneficiary can receive these payments.

Term	Definition
Primary Beneficiary	Primary beneficiary is someone who was infected directly from NHS-supplied blood or blood products, or someone who was infected directly from someone who was as set out in Annex A of the specification. An infected person must be registered with EIBSS to be classed as a Primary Beneficiary.
Secondary Beneficiary	A Secondary Beneficiary is someone who is a bereaved partner or spouse or dependent child of a Primary beneficiary. A bereaved partner/dependent child must be registered with EIBSS to be classed as a Secondary beneficiary.

3. In a statement made to Parliament on 25 March 2021 by Penny Mordaunt MP, Paymaster General, it was confirmed that several changes were going to be made to the four UK Infected Blood Support Schemes to provide broader financial parity.³
4. The Specification is currently under review and it is anticipated that an updated version will be issued later this year (2021). The review will include the specification and this addendum. In the meantime, to enable updated payments to be made out of EIBSS, the DHSC and the NHSBSA have agreed this Addendum.
5. Details of how these updated payments will be applied and any appropriate eligibility criteria are shown below.

Updated payments

6. In order to implement this announcement, NHSBSA will administer:
 - a. a lump sum payment to Current Primary Beneficiaries infected with Hepatitis C Stage 1 (including those categorised as SCM⁴ and co-infected) to bring the total received, including that paid by AHOs, up to £50,000. Where a current Primary Beneficiary dies after 25 March 2021 but before this payment is made, the estate of the deceased Current Primary Beneficiary is entitled to apply for this payment.
 - b. a lump sum payment to Current Primary Beneficiaries infected with HIV (including those categorised as co-infected) to bring the total received, including that paid by AHOs, up to £80,500. Where a Current Primary Beneficiary dies after 25 March 2021 but before this payment is made, the estate of the deceased Current Primary Beneficiary is entitled to apply for this payment.
 - c. a lump sum bereavement payment of £10,000 to the Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiary of the deceased Primary Beneficiary, or if there is no Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiary (upon application) the estate of the deceased Primary Beneficiary, where this has not previously been paid, for all deaths since the start of EIBSS (1 November 2017)⁵.

³ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-03-25/hcws895>

⁴ Special Category Mechanism

⁵ There is no need to be a connection between the primary beneficiary's infection with HIV or Hepatitis C and their death in order for this payment to be made.

- d. a non-discretionary annual payment made to Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiaries of 100% of the relevant deceased Primary Beneficiary annual payment in first year of bereavement (year 1), and 75% in subsequent years. Such payments will be backdated to April 2019 or the relevant date of bereavement, minus any income top-up ("ITU") payments already received since April 2019 or the date of bereavement. This will replace the discretionary ITU payment for Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiaries.⁶
 - e. an ITU protected payment (further detail below) which will bring the value of payment received by a Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiary who was previously in receipt of £18,000 of ITU to that level.
7. ITU Protected Payment: It has been identified that the replacement of the discretionary ITU payments with bereaved partner annual payments would leave a small number of Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiaries, who are receiving the maximum ITU payment of £18,000 and whose deceased partner was Hepatitis C stage one, worse off after year 1 of bereavement. ITU protected payments will ensure that this is not the case and for those individuals the annual payment amount of £18,000/pa will be maintained. This protection will remain in place until the bereaved partner annual payment is equal to or greater than £18,000 and such protection will then cease.
 8. ITU payments will remain in place until the new bereaved partner annual payments can be implemented. NHSBSA will transition all beneficiaries in receipt of ITU to the new bereaved partner annual payment (as set in in para 6(d) above) and, where applicable, the ITU protected payment (as set out in para 6(e) above).
 9. Where a beneficiary meets the criteria as a Primary Beneficiary and as a Bereaved Partner Secondary Beneficiary, they shall receive the lump sum and annual payment entitlement for both categories. With regard to other payments, the limitations set out in the 'Discretionary one-off payments - Guidance Document' contained within the EIBSS section of the NHSBSA website⁷, will apply to each individual beneficiary, such individual beneficiaries will receive one winter fuel payment per year only.
 10. For individuals applying to join the scheme as a Bereaved Partner, whose application is received before 1 April 2022 and who are subsequently accepted, Year 1 starts on the latest of 1 April 2019, or the date of bereavement.
 11. Payment of the bereaved partner annual payment shall take account of any continuation of Primary Beneficiary payments as set out in 3.1.16 of the Specification.
 12. Where an Infected Person comes forward who was previously a beneficiary of an AHO, NHSBSA shall administer a lump sum as appropriate to bring the amount received to the amount specified (as set out in para 6 (a) and 6 (b) above) as is relevant to their condition.

⁶ See Specification 3.2.5 "Regularly reviewed means tested income top-ups."

⁷ [https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2020-](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Discretionary%20payments%20guidance%20November%202020%20%28002%29.pdf)

[11/Discretionary%20payments%20guidance%20November%202020%20%28002%29.pdf](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Discretionary%20payments%20guidance%20November%202020%20%28002%29.pdf)

Estates

13. Where applicable, NHSBSA shall administer a process for payments to be claimed by the estate of a beneficiary.
14. NHSBSA shall administer an application process to enable payment to be made to the estate of an Infected Person who was never registered with the scheme, the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme ("SIBSS"), Welsh Infected Blood Support Scheme ("WIBSS"), Northern Ireland Infected Blood Support Scheme ("NIBSS"), or one of the AHO schemes, where no previous payments have been made and that person would have been eligible for support as defined in Annex A of the Specification.
15. The lump sum amount an Estate Claim is entitled to receive will be based on the date of death of the infected person.

Table 1 – Estate Claim Payment Rates

Category	Rate	
	Date of death on or before 24 March 2021	Date of death on or after 25 March 2021
Hepatitis C stage 1	£20,000	£50,000
Hepatitis C stage 2	£70,000 (for stage 2 applications)	
HIV – Lump Sum only	Amount dependent on circumstances as outlined in Annex A (HIV) of the specification.	£80,500

Payments for beneficiaries

16. NHSBSA will make payments to beneficiaries at the rate specified in the 2021/22 EIBSS Funding Allocation Letter, provided by DHSC. The payments will be made by NHSBSA in accordance with the provisions set out in the Specification and/or this Addendum.

Appeals and complaints

17. Existing NHSBSA appeals and complaints mechanisms shall apply.

Application of entitlement criteria

18. A table has been provided on the following page to show each of the payment types that will be applied, based upon personal circumstances.

Table 2 – Beneficiary Payment Rates.


Lump sum rates apply to current beneficiaries as of 25 March 2021 and new beneficiaries after 25 March 2021.

Beneficiary	Payment Type	Rate		
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Hepatitis C stage 1	One-off lump sum payment	£50,000 (cumulative)		
	Annual payment	£18,458	£18,772	£18,912
Hepatitis C stage 1 Special Category Mechanism (“SCM”)	One-off lump sum payment	No additional payment.		
	Annual payment	£28,000	£28,476	£28,680
Hepatitis C stage 2	One-off lump sum payment	£20,000 (£70,000 for new entrants at Stage 2)		
	Annual payment	£28,000	£28,476	£28,680
HIV	One-off lump sum payment	£80,500 (cumulative)		
	Annual payment	£28,000	£28,476	£28,680
Co-infected: Hepatitis C stage 1 and HIV	One-off lump sum payment	HEP C Stage 1 + HIV lump sum (cumulative £50,000+£80,500=£130,500 for new entrants at this co-infected stage)		
	Annual payment	£38,000	£38,646	£38,928
Co-infected: Hepatitis C SCM and HIV	One-off lump sum payment	No additional payment		
	Annual payment	£44,000	£44,748	£45,072
Co-infected: Hepatitis C stage 2 and HIV	One-off lump sum payment	HEP C Stage 2 + HIV lump sum (Additional £20,000 if moving to Stage 2, cumulative £70,000+£80,500=£150,500 for new entrants at this co- infected stage)		
	Annual payment	£44,000	£44,748	£45,072
Winter Fuel Allowance	Single annual payment	£531	£540	£544
Bereaved partners/ spouses	One-off lump sum payment	£10,000 (can also be paid to deceased’s estate).		
	Annual payments	100% of annual payment infected person would have received in Year 1 and 75% for subsequent years.		


Signatories

Signed for and on behalf of:

DHSC:

Signature:	
Name:	William Vineall
Date:	2 July 2021
Position:	Director, NHS Quality, Safety, Investigations

NHSBSA:

Signature:	
Name:	Michael Brodie
Date:	05/07/2021
Position:	Chief Executive