The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Response from the Royal College of Pathologists to Consultation on Screening for Haemochromatosis

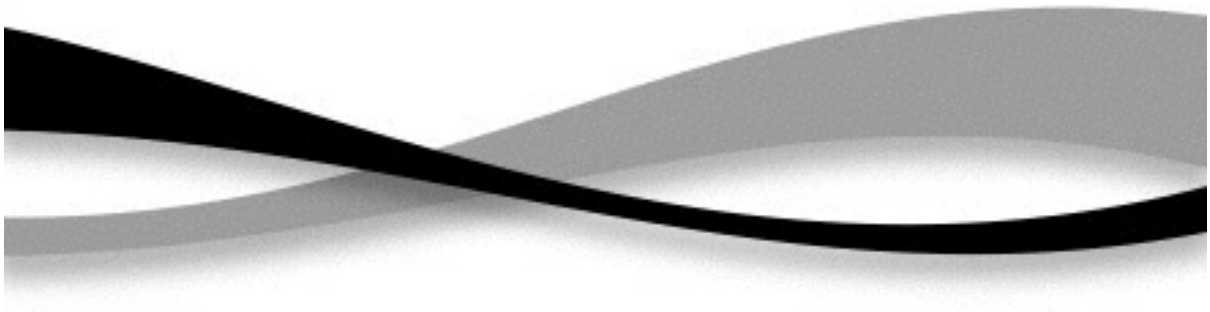
The Royal College of Pathologists' written submission

July 2016

For more information please contact:
Rachael Liebmann
Registrar

The Royal College of Pathologists
4th Floor
21 Prescot Street
London
E1 8BB

Phone: 020 7451 6700
Email: registrar@rcpath.org
Website: www.rcpath



1 About the Royal College of Pathologists

1.1 The Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) is a professional membership organisation with charitable status. It is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology. Pathology is the science at the heart of modern medicine and is involved in 70 per cent of all diagnoses made within the National Health Service. The College aims to advance the science and practice of pathology, to provide public education, to promote research in pathology and to disseminate the results. We have over 10,000 members across 19 specialties working in hospital laboratories, universities and industry worldwide to diagnose, treat and prevent illness.

1.2 The Royal College of Pathologists comments were made by Fellows of the College during the consultation which ran from 18th May 2016 until the 17th June 2016 and collated by Dr Rachael Liebmann, Registrar.

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2.1 College Fellows considered this to be a well-written and evidenced document.

2.2 Also for clarity the executive summary makes clear that there is a lack of sufficient high quality evidence and therefore the authors conclude there is no point in changing the present recommendation. It would aid understanding if the authors stated clearly what the present recommendation is in the executive summary.

2.3 The comment was made that the authors should highlight their focus on HFE-related hereditary haemochromatosis (type 1), which is relevant to 90% of cases. Current practise uses a much more detailed classification of the disease including juvenile disease (types 2a and 2b) and types 3 and 4 (mutations in the TFR2 and FPN genes). It was proposed that the committee need to clarify that these non-HFE types of HH were outside the scope of this document.