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Claudia Wells
Head of Mortality Analysis
Office for National Statistics
Room 1.364
Government Buildings
Cardiff Road
Newport
NP10 8XG

By email to: mortality@ons.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Wells

I am pleased to reply on behalf of the British HIV Association to the ONS consultation on 'Definitions of Avoidable Mortality'.

The consultation document proposes at paragraph 23 a) to add HIV/AIDS to ONS definitions of "amenable mortality". HIV is also included in Table 2 as "preventable".

In the opinion of BHIVA, HIV/AIDS should be included in the amenable death list as access to good quality care should prevent most patients from dying from the direct consequences of chronic HIV infection, although you could argue that HIV infection may indirectly contribute to cause of death such as cardiovascular disease. Poor quality care would lead to more rapid progression of HIV disease and increased risk of death.

HIV/AIDS should also be listed as preventable as a public health intervention through increased HIV testing and earlier diagnosis would reduce risk of death. Referencing the BHIVA mortality audit data would be useful as well as the proposed public health outcomes.

If you have any queries or require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Secretariat at jacqueline@mediscript.ltd.uk.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Dr Ian Williams
Chair
British HIV Association (BHIVA)