

Dr Maycock ✓
Dr Waiter
Mr Masters
Mr Hanson
Mr Jackson

ANTI-HAEMOPHILIC GLOBULIN (AHG FACTOR VIII)

It might be helpful in preparation for the meeting in Room 909A Hannibal House at 10 00 am on 26 June 1974, to have the following background summary of events which have a bearing on Mr Steer's (Travenol) letter of 16 May to Dr Maycock (copy attached with Dr Maycock's comments.)

1. It was recommended by the Expert Group on Haemophilia in March 1973 that Supply Division should enquire of two firms: Travenol Laboratories Ltd and Serological Products Ltd, whether they would consider supplying AHG under a central call-off contract. Estimated annual take-up was 20 million units.
2. Mr John, Director of HSSB, obtained from these agreement in principle. Travenol, who would obtain AHG from Hyland Labs, Los Angeles, estimated that they could supply 15 million units and Serological^{Products Ltd}, who obtained theirs from Immuno, Vienna, about 5 millions, although this could be increased provided the contract was for 2/3 years.
3. Estimated price was 10p a unit; £2 million a year for which AGD4 could promise no money additional to the existing hospital allocation.
4. At a meeting in May 1973 it was agreed that Supply Division should negotiate call off contracts with both firms for one year. It was anticipated, but this information was not given to the firms, that UK needs for AHG could be met wholly from the Blood Transfusion Services from mid 1975 (see paragraph 8).
5. Subsequently the estimated take up was halved to 10 million units (£1 million) and the firms invited formally to tender for the supply of 5 million units each under a call off contract; delivery to 40 centres. Both firms tendered and contracts began on 1 November 1973.
6. Demand has been disappointing over the first seven months:-

Travenol	1,355,230 units	47% of estimate.
Serological <i>Products Ltd</i>	244,250 "	8% " "

In replying to Mr Steer, and at the meeting he has requested we should be aware that if the present contracts are to be renewed in November 1974 both firms will almost certainly require reasonable assurances about take up. We have had indications from both firms of their disquiet about the progress of the current contract.

7. Although the meeting is primarily to discuss Travenol's letter, Supply Division would need to consider the interests of Serological Products as well in order to provide equality of information.

8. If AHG is to be provided by the BTS/Blood Products Laboratory, it will be necessary for the Transfusion Service to collect its blood in plastics bags in lieu of bottles (for production of the plasma which goes to Elstree). Last year Supply Division advised against wholesale switch to bags because of shortages of plastics materials (see Mr Steer's letter also), and because there is virtually only one supplier of bags manufactured in the UK. While the shortages panic seems to have subsided we still have only the one supplier and it is for consideration whether the gamble to go all-bag can therefore be taken.

At present the following R.T.C's are all-bag:-

Edware, Brentwood, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Wessex.

The following use only a proportion of bags:-

Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Cambridge, South London, Oxford, Liverpool.

GRO-C

GRO-C

G A Drewe
R A Tunnard

25 June 1974