

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NRTS

Supply of Plasma to the Blood Products Laboratory

The attached paper has been prepared by Dr G H Tovey in conjunction with Divisional Chairmen of Transfusion Directors.

S GODFREY  
for Joint Secretaries.

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Supply of Plasma to the Blood Products Laboratory

1. As members will already know , a programme has been agreed to expand the capacity of the Blood Products Laboratory (BPL). The upgrading is expected to double the production capacity for Factor VIII from 15 M i.u. to 30 M i.u. It is hoped that the programme of upgrading will be completed during 1982.
2. The expanded capacity can only be utilised if the quantity and quality of the plasma supplied to BPL by regional transfusion centres is improved.
3. A survey of the current situation regarding plasma supplies to BPL has been made by Chairmen of Divisions of NBTS and is attached. This survey shows the quantity and quality of the plasma currently supplied to BPL by regional transfusion centres. It includes a "target" for each regional transfusion centre to meet by the time of upgrading, which is based on the population of each region and expressed as a proportion of the total Factor VIII requirement of 30 M i.u.
4. The table shows that, with the exception of two regions (Mersey and SE/SW Thames), the others should be able to meet their targets without increased blood collection provided that they can improve the quality of their plasma to not less than 225 i.u./litre, and, where necessary, increase the proportion of usable donations converted to FFP to not less than 45%.
5. It appears from the survey that some regions (e.g. E.Anglia, N.W. Thames, W. Midlands and S.Western) may well be able to exceed their target of FFP. The Committee will wish to consider whether surplus plasma contributed by these regions should be "purchased" by any region which finds difficulty in meeting its target by 1982.
6. All regions are spending variable sums of money on purchasing Factor VIII from commercial sources. It is probable, therefore, that there may be resistance from regions with an excess of FFP to offer it elsewhere. It would seem important that discussions are entered into without delay with Directors of haemophilia centres to agree the optimal use of the improved yield of Factor VIII from BPL.
7. It is proposed that a report of this survey is circulated to each regional health authority and RTD to enable plans to be drawn up to meet the regions' targets of FFP. This should be followed at quarterly intervals by a report from the Director of BPL to all regions showing the quantity and quality of the plasma being received at BPL.
8. Pro-rata distribution will require a Committee recommendation regarding donor source of Factor VIII for special units such as Lord Mayor Treloar and the Oxford Haemophilia Centre. The needs of Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands must also be borne in mind.
9. In anticipation of the rebuilding of BPL it is important for the current use of commercial Factor VIII to be surveyed. This could most simply be done if there was national agreement for commercial as well as BPL Factor VIII to be issued via Regional Transfusion Centres.

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Summary of Current and Possible Future Supplies of Plasma to Blood Products Laboratory  
based on 1979 figures

Region	Population	Total plasma received at BPL	Yield/litre Factor VIII	Equivalent Total input Factor VIII	Target based on 600 i.u./1,000 population	Current deficit or Excess	Usable donations converted to FFP at present	No. of donations required to meet target on current assay level	No. donations if quality improved to 225 i.u./litre	As % of usable donations
	M	Litres	i.u	i.u x 10 <sup>6</sup>	i.u x 10 <sup>6</sup>	i.u x 10 <sup>6</sup>	%	x 1,000	x 1,000	%
Northern	1	3.1	5,000	187	0.94 <i>current.</i>	1.9 <i>target (double)</i>	0.97	26.8	68 <i>sec-O</i>	45
Yorkshire	2	3.6	3,841	190	0.73	2.2	1.5	17.0	65	42
Trent	3	4.5	3,841	182	0.71	2.7	2.0	15.2	79	47
Mersey	13	3.1	1,409	224	0.32	1.9	1.6	8.9	53	52
N.Western	14	4.1	3,809	201	0.77	2.5	1.7	14.2	74	41
E. Anglia	4	1.8	2,445	213	0.52	1.1	0.6	17.0	26	34
N.W. Thames	5	3.9	6,405	238	1.52	2.4	0.9	19.8	53	31
N.E. Thames	6	3.3	8,199	219	1.81	2.0	0.2	31.7	51	41
S.E./S.W Thames	7	6.5	7,883	195	1.54	3.9	2.4	25.8	144	56
Wessex	9	2.3	3,817	240	0.92	1.40	0.5	27	30	42
Oxford	10	2.3	10,000	240	2.40	1.40	+ 1.0	47	32	36
S. Western	11	3.4	7,197	210	1.51	2.0	0.5	30	41	32
W. Midlands	12	5.2	10,368	242	2.51	3.12	0.6	36	65	40
Wales	15	2.2	3,428	195	0.67	1.32	0.7	20	36	42

As % of usable donations

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