

Copie s to: Mr M Harris) Mr R Brown) Dr Pickles Dr Moore

Distribution Sub-Cttee
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members of both Committees
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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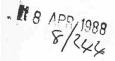
14 April 1988

Les Herold

PLASMA SUPPLY FOR BPL AND BLOOD PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION

As you will know, the commissioning of the new Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree is nearing completion and we can expect a greatly increased output of blood products within the next few months. This success, unfortunately, brings difficulties in its wake which demand our timely attention. Particularly we need to consider the volume of the plasma supply which although buffered by the stockpile at prsent must be able to keep pace with production. Problems of Factor VIII yield and indeed the necessary target production levels for Factor VIII may need to be reassessed in the light of current experience. The present method of prorata distribution of blood products does not seem appropriate to ensure that the greatly increased amounts of Factor VIII reach the Centres where it is required. Plasma rich Regions are not necessarily those needing most Factor VIII.

We have decided that these issues must be addressed soon and should not wait for any reorganisational change of the NBTS before being resolved. An ad hoc Departmental Committee to be known as the Plasma Supply and Blood Product Working Group will therefore be set up under my chairmanship. There are clearly medical issues of need and yield which may be separated from issues of finance and distribution and I propose to nominate a Medical sub-committee under the chairmanship of Dr Gunson to examine them. The financial and distribution issues will be examined by a Distribution sub-committee chaired by Mr Malcolm Harris, and I will expect them to give consideration to an internal market as one way of resolving plasma collection and distribution problems. Both CBLA/BPL and the BTS will of course be represented on both committees and I have asked Dr Moore and Dr Pickles to provide a secretariat for both committees to avoid overlap. I would hope



E.R.

the sub-committees could meet first before the end of April, and I would hope both committees would be in a position to report back together to the Working Group in early Summer. I would be most grateful if you would agree to serve on the Working Group and as a member of the Medical Sub-Committee.

GRO-C

yours sincerely

E L HARRIS Deputy Chief Medical Officer