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BUC 9

Dr Bird
Director, West Midlands Regional
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H/B13/22

30 January 1981

Dear Dr Bird

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NBTS

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a draft paper for RMOs and Regional Treasurers on issuing all stocks of Factor VIII through Regional Transfusion Centres. I spoke to you briefly about this when you confirmed that this was the arrangement in your Region.

I enclose a first shot at such a paper for your information. It is not at this stage ready to go to other Members of the Advisory Committee. Before doing so, and particularly before putting the paper to a formal meeting of RMOs and Regional Treasurers, it would be useful for me to have some idea of how the arrangement works in practice. I would be very grateful for your assistance in this. For example, how does an individual clinician in your Region obtain Factor VIII? Does he contact your Centre direct? If your Centre has exhausted its supply from BPL, do you arrange purchase of commercial supplies, or is the clinician informed and left to make arrangements himself, or through his hospital Supplies Officer? Do you perhaps estimate the demand for Factor VIII and purchase commercial supplies in bulk to make up the difference between the demand and BPL's supply?

I would appreciate any help you can give. I have tried to anticipate the questions which might arise about this system, but there may well be others which occur to you.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

S GODFREY

Mrs Cragh

Please associate with my minute to Peter Jones (in B/F folder)

ENC

GRO-C

30.1.81

DRAFT PAPER TO BE PUT, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO RMOs
AND RTs

SUPPLY OF FACTOR VIII FOR THE TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIACS

1. At its first meeting on 1 December, the Advisory Committee on the National Blood Transfusion Service discussed arrangements for the supply of Factor VIII (used in the treatment of haemophiliacs). As [RMOs] [RTs] will know, demand for Factor VIII is met by a combination of

1. cryoprecipitate manufactured by Regional Transfusion Centres;
2. Factor VIII supplied without charge by the Blood Products Laboratory;
and
3. commercial purchases.

The last of these accounts for over one-third of all Factor VIII used.

Present annual consumption of Factor VIII in England and Wales is about 55 million international units, but demand is expected to reach 90 million international units by the mid-1980s. As a result of a short-term up-grading programme, the Blood Products Laboratory will increase production from 15 million to 30 million international units by the end of 1982, but this will not eliminate the need for commercial purchases.

Regional Transfusion Directors have suggested that it would be useful if all Factor VIII (including supplies purchased commercially) were to be held and issued by Regional Transfusion Centres. This would enable the use of Factor VIII to be monitored more closely and assist Directors in calculating the level of fresh-frozen plasma supplies needed to be sent to the Blood Products Laboratory, bearing in mind the proposed pro-rata supply of blood products to Regions ^{from} 1 April 1981 [(RA)(RMO)80-]. This is already the practice in at least one Region (West Midlands). The Advisory Committee recognises that purchasing and distribution policy must remain a matter for local decision, but strongly commends this arrangement to RHAs for consideration.