



# BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

National Blood Transfusion Service

Director:  
R. S. LANE, MD MRCP MRCPPath.

Telephone: 01-953-6191

RSL/AH

Dagger Lane,  
Elstree,  
Borehamwood,  
Herts WD6 3BX.

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Pro-rata return of blood products to  
National Blood Transfusion Service:  
Implications for special users.

DHSS has recently accepted the advice of the Advisory Committee on the National Blood Transfusion Service concerning a policy termed "Pro-rata return of blood products" to Regional Blood Transfusion Services. In effect, this means that the Blood Products Laboratory will return to regional centres all the factor VIII and albumin-containing products which are attributable to the raw material supply as calculated from volume and yield data.

The policy aims to encourage Regional Health Authorities to invest in the increased collection of plasma of high quality by Regional Blood Transfusion Centres and to see a pro-rata return on their investment, offsetting costs by gaining a reduction in the purchase of commercial equivalent products.

The effect on special users, defined as those users who have traditionally received material direct from BPL and additional to the existing regional allocations, is to halt direct supplies, requiring that these users will in future negotiate blood products direct with Regional Transfusion Directors. Bearing in mind that this decision has major financial implications in some areas, existing "special user" arrangements will be maintained during the financial year 1981/82, maintained at the present rate for the first six months, reducing by half from 1 October 1981 before ceasing completely from 1 April 1982.

Pro-rata arrangements do not exclude the supply of albumin-containing products for clinical research, but in future protocols for work of this kind will need to be approved by Regional Transfusion Directors in order that a special allocation can be defined on an agreed basis.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

R. S. LANE.

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