

ALE/ENAI

10th March 1961

Dr. J. Holgate,  
DHSC,  
Medicine Division,  
Picket Towers,  
11 King Elms Lane,  
London SW8 5NQ

Dear Dr. Holgate,

I am writing to you in my official capacity as Chairman of the Haemophilic Centre Directors of the UK. At a recent meeting of Reference Centre Directors the problem of possible irregularities in the supply of factor VIII concentrate was discussed.

Two problems have been mentioned recently. The first concerns the preparation of human plasma, about which there was some adverse publicity in the National Press recently. My colleagues and I would like to be reassured that this material has been cleared for use and has passed the normal control processes for the UK. We would like to be reassured that it is possible from the protocol to trace actual batches to source in the event of an outbreak of hepatitis etc. attributable to it. Most of us are aware of rumours that this material originates with an American Company and is sold through brokerage or other means to Speywood Laboratories Ltd. where it is relabelled. This seems to us to be somewhat irregular and we would greatly appreciate your advice on its current status.

With regard to a similar subject I enclose a copy of a letter which Dr. Savidge of St. Thomas's Hospital has given to me. From this you will see that a firm called Inter-Pharma intend to market cut-price factor VIII obtained from Cutter Laboratories and from Hyland, and I wonder also if this material has been through the normal control mechanisms. I understand from Dr. Savidge that the Hyland material may in fact be high potency factor VIII and not the much cheaper intermediate variety, being marketed in the ethical way in the UK.

The Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors have expressed disquiet at these developments although we are aware that by virtue of plasma brokerage arrangements in the USA it may be difficult sometimes to be sure of the exact origin of plasma used in any of the currently available concentrates. These problems highlight the importance of developing a UK potential within the Health Service to supply all the needs of the British haemophiliacs. I would be very grateful for your advice.

Yours sincerely,

A. I. Bloom