



April 9, 1997 - Bayer Corporation

BAYER: Expertise with Responsibility?

PRISONS WARNED BEFORE HEMOPHILIAC PATIENTS!
Selling untested plasma from prison inmates

In early 1982, the first Hemophiliac was diagnosed with AIDS. By July 1982, two more Hemophiliacs were diagnosed with AIDS. The first Hemophiliac AIDS cases had only one risk, using plasma-based prescription medicines. In the first week of January 1983, a major meeting was held to discuss the facts of 9 Hemophiliacs with AIDS. Despite these facts, the for-profit commercial plasma industry continued to deny for years that HIV could be transmitted by plasma and other blood products.

Prison wardens and inmate donors knew before the hemophiliac patients who were recipients of plasma.

Memo from Cutter (Bayer) to a prison warden in January 1983 after the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control meeting:

CUTTER BIOLOGICAL
Division of Cutter Laboratories Inc.
4th and Parker Streets
Berkeley, CA

January 19, 1983

Mr. Steve Hargott, Warden
North Unit
Arizona State Prison
Florence, AZ 85232

Dear Steve:

I have enclosed several papers on AIDS as I said I would. In addition, I just received two new pages concerning AIDS in prisons. For the next month or two, I am concerned that there will be a lot of pressure on our industry by the news media and the regulatory people. We do not want to "rock the boat" as far as the Bureau of Biologics is concerned by opening a new center in a prison. We want to wait until the facts are more clear before we make our commitment.

We first became aware of AIDS early last summer. At the time we were not concerned because there was no reason to believe we

would
be affected. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta was saying that the number of AIDS victims was growing by 100% every 6 months. It had almost done that. This summer there were about 500 cases.

Currently there are over 900 just in the U.S. It appears that the disease is fatal in all cases. There is strong evidence to suggest that AIDS is passed on to other people through blood donations and plasma products. Specifically, the AHF product used to treat hemophiliacs, has apparently passed the disease on to 9 hemophiliacs. Cutter manufacturers an AHF product therefore we are very concerned about our donor panel and their background.

I hope this gives you enough background and information to explain to your inmates and superiors why we have not begun construction on the new center yet. We are hopeful that something will develop in the near future so we can test for AIDS just like we do hepatitis B.

This would solve all of our problems.

I will keep in touch and continue to send you any information which seems pertinent to your prison operation.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Barden
Plasma Procurement Manager
Cutter Biological

Responsibility to WHOM?
Bayer, what about your Product Stewardship Guidelines?

What about your customers and employees?

For More Information on Hemophilia and HIV:

<http://www.web-depot.com/hemophilia>

This page last updated on: Wed Apr 9 22:29:56 1997
Permanent Anchor for this page:
Copyright © 1997, The Web-Depot, Inc. All right reserved.
Comments to hemophilia@web-depot.com.
This software was developed by Michael Davon.