

RECEIVED

FEB 22 1983

8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 PM

FOR:
CONTACT:

GRO-C

CUTTER LABORATORIES

Bud Modersbach
Director of Corporate Development
GRO-C

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUTTER LABORATORIES ANNOUNCES
PLASMA DONOR SCREENING PROGRAM

EMERYVILLE, CA, February 23, 1983 -- Cutter Laboratories, the nation's largest producer of blood plasma products, today announced that it will screen plasma donors by using a confidential questionnaire designed to eliminate those in high-risk groups for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Initial investigations at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and at other research centers around the country have indicated that AIDS -- which occurs primarily among male homosexuals, intravenous drug users and recent residents of or visitors to Haiti -- might be transmissible through blood and certain blood plasma products.

Cutter's screening procedures are part of a larger effort to minimize the possibility that the unknown factor or factors responsible for AIDS could be transmitted to

-more-

702664

hemophiliacs through coagulant concentrates produced by the company. The National Hemophilia Foundation has asked all blood centers to initiate donor screening procedures. There are an estimated 15,000 hemophiliacs in the United States.

Effective immediately, all donors at Cutter-owned and affiliated plasma centers will be asked to read and sign a confidential questionnaire which states they are not members of any of the three high-risk groups. In addition, the medical examination routinely given to all donors will be expanded to include questions specifically related to AIDS-like symptoms, such as night sweats, drastic, unexplained weight loss and recurrent fever.

Cutter also intends to initiate supplementary physical examinations of all male donors, in which the examining physician will look for symptoms of AIDS through a check for enlarged lymph glands and will conduct a full body examination for suspicious lesions.

"Cutter is committed to taking whatever precautionary measures the company can to protect the hemophiliacs who depend on our products for their lives," said Bud Modersbach, a company spokesman.

An additional measure already under review by the company is development of a heat treatment for coagulation

-more-

702665

concentrates, a procedure that has been effective in neutralizing transmissible disease agents in other products. This step would require FDA approval before implementation. Modersbach stressed, however, that science does not yet know what the causative agent or agents may be that are involved in transmitting AIDS.

Cutter owns or contracts with over 80 plasma centers throughout the country. There are no Cutter centers in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles or Miami, where the vast majority of AIDS cases to date have been reported.

###

Editor's Note: the locations of Cutter-owned and affiliated plasma centers are listed on the following page.

702666

Cutter-owned and affiliated plasma centers are located in the following cities:

Auburn, AL
 Birmingham, AL
 Mobile, AL
 Montgomery, AL
 Tuscaloosa, AL
 Florence, AZ
 Phoenix, AZ
 Scottsdale, AZ
 Tempe, AZ
 Berkeley, CA
 Long Beach, CA
 Oakland, CA
 Sacramento, CA
 San Diego, CA
 Stockton, CA
 Colorado Springs, CO
 Denver, CO
 Pueblo, CO
 Daytona Beach, FL
 Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Fort Meyer, FL
 Gainesville, FL
 Jacksonville, FL
 Orlando, FL
 Augusta, GA
 Macon, GA
 Davenport, IA
 Des Moines, IA
 Fort Wayne, IN
 Indianapolis, IN
 Muncie, IN
 Louisville, KY
 Kansas City, KS
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Lafayette, LA
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Detroit, MI
 Flint, MI
 Kalamazoo, MI
 Lansing, MI
 Ypsilanti, MI

Minneapolis, MN
 Kansas City, MO
 Springfield, MO
 Greenville, MS
 Jackson, MS
 Meridian, MS
 Billings, MT
 Lincoln, NE
 Albuquerque, NM
 Indian Springs, NV
 Las Vegas, NV
 Stewart, NV
 Cincinnati, OH
 Columbus, OH
 Oklahoma City, OK
 Tulsa, OK
 Eugene, OR
 Easton, PA
 Pittsburgh, PA
 Scranton, PA
 Columbia, SC
 Rapid City, SD
 Nashville, TN
 Austin, TX
 Brownsville, TX
 Corpus Christi, TX
 Dallas, TX
 Del Rio, TX
 Eagle Pass, TX
 El Paso, TX
 Houston, TX
 Laredo, TX
 Lubbock, TX
 McAllen, TX
 San Antonio, TX
 Ogden, UT
 Salt Lake City, UT
 Norfolk, VA
 Roanoke, VA
 Seattle, WA
 Milwaukee, WI

702667