

CLOTTING FACTORS

Issue

Risks from plasma derived clotting factors

Lines to Take

- Explain that they do.*
- From 1998, we instructed our fractionation laboratories to make blood products only from plasma imported from countries where there is no evidence of vCJD
 - Plasma derived clotting factors are tightly regulated by European and United States authorities to minimise the risk of viral transmission. This is achieved by the screening of donor blood and the anti-viral measures taken during manufacture. By ceasing to use UK plasma in the manufacture of blood products, the Government has already taken steps to reduce the theoretical risks from vCJD.
 - On 12 February 2003 the Government announced investment of an extra £88m to provide haemophilia patients with synthetic clotting factors (Recombinant). An advantage of recombinant products, where they are entirely free of human albumin, is that they eliminate the risk from blood borne viruses and the unknown risk from vCJD. We have been working with key stakeholders including the Haemophilia Society, clinicians, Primary Care Trusts and others to put in place a strategy to roll out access to recombinant products. We aim to begin the roll out as soon as possible.