



NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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10 December 1992

Dr D Gorst
Consultant Haematologist
Royal Lancaster Infirmary
Ashton Road
Lancaster
LA1 4RP

Dear Dr Gorst

You will be aware that the Regional Medical Officer and Haematologists responsible for the management of haemophilia within the North Western Region have recently agreed to the principle that treatment of all HIV positive patients should be transferred to High Purity Factor VIII (8SM). Furthermore, they recognised that the next highest priority for High Purity Factor VIII is for the treatment of HIV negative children.

A paper setting out these proposals was presented to the Chief Executive's meeting and subsequently to the meeting of DGMs on the 20th November 1992.

The effect of such a move on your financial resources will, in some cases, be quite substantial; the cost of the current intermediate purity product is approximately 21p per unit compared with 34p/35p per unit for High Purity Factor VIII. The current block contract arrangement will need to be reviewed to take account of this disparity and we will arrange to discuss contract arrangements for the financial year 1993/1994 in the near future.

In the meantime, however, the Regional Blood Transfusion Service will endeavour to obtain supplies of all therapeutic products at the best possible price based on bulk purchases covering the combined requirements of all providers within this Region.

In order that we may begin to plan our requirements for the next financial year and open negotiations with suppliers, it would be helpful if you could provide:-

- (a) Confirmation that your unit will be following the recommendations of the paper submitted to the CEM and DGM's meetings and transferring treatment of specified cases to High Purity Factor VIII.

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- (b) Your estimate of the volume of Factor Vlll (SM) you anticipate will be required within your unit/district for the financial year April 1993.
- (c) A revision of the volume of intermediate purity Factor Vlll (Y) required as a result of the change.

This information is required as soon as possible and your prompt reply would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

B TATTON
Regional Business Manager