

10 December 1996

Dr C A Ludlam
Chairman
UKHCDO
The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
Department of Haematology
Lauriston Place
EDINBURGH
EH3 9YW

NHS

Executive

Headquarters

Department of
Health

Room 4W53

Quarry House

Quarry Hill

Leeds LS2 7UE

Tel 0113 254 5822

Fax 0113 254 5818

Dr Graham

Winyard

FRCP FFPHM

Medical Director

Dear Dr Ludlam

RE: UKHCDO GUIDELINES ON THERAPEUTIC PRODUCTS TO TREAT
HAEMOPHILIA AND OTHER HEREDITARY COAGULATION DISORDERS

Thank you for your letter of 24 October.

I am sorry that the circulation of my message to DPHs caused you surprise. I do feel that the inclusion of the sentence which you quote in the section of the draft referring to bodies which were stated to have reviewed and approved the guidelines, could reasonably have been read as meaning that, with the minor modifications which you had included, this Department was content with them. I am grateful that the reference was removed from the "pre-publication" version, but it is clear from enquiries that we have had subsequently that Health Authorities and Trusts are very interested in the NHS Executive's view of the Guidelines, or rather, as this has been the only subject of enquiries, of the recommendation in relation to recombinant Factor VIII.

Overall, I would say that the Guidelines do contain a lot of helpful information and I appreciate that an attempt has been made to indicate the various levels of security of the evidence and to grade the recommendations. In our view, some of the evidence is more secure than others evidence and this is particularly the case in relation to recombinant Factor VIII. Our line remains that the individual circumstances of each patient with haemophilia need to be considered and that purchasers should seek assurance that the money they spend is determined by efficacy of treatment as well as value for money and related of course to individual patient circumstances.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

DR GRAHAM WINYARD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
NHS EXECUTIVE

A:LUDLAM.DEC

TOTAL 2 OF 2

HCDO0000277_137_0001