



Dr. M. CONTRERAS  
Director

MC/CHP

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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4 May 1988

Professor M Yacoub  
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon  
Harefield Hospital  
Hill End Road  
HAREFIELD  
Middx

Dear Professor Yacoub

I am writing to express my concern about your growing demands for the supply of same-day fresh blood, untested for HBsAg, anti-HIV, syphilis and routine blood group serology.

As I clearly stated to Dr Boscoe today when he requested 10 units of fresh, untested group A, Rh positive blood for a patient who was still under by-pass and whom you assumed would bleed in view of his 3 previous thoracotomies, I am not prepared to issue from this Centre any more untested blood unless the DHSS is prepared to agree to this.

You may not be aware that blood and blood components are no longer considered a service but a product and, in view of the new regulations on Product Liability of the Consumer Protection Act which came into force in April 1988, I do not think that my Medical Defence Union or the DHSS would be prepared to back me up if I issue blood that does not comply with the mandatory pre-release testing, even if the clinician requesting the blood is prepared to state that he/she will administer it under his/her own personal responsibility. Furthermore, personally it is against the good principles of Blood Transfusion Medicine to use untested blood.

As discussed on numerous previous occasions, I cannot see the advantages of 1-2 hour blood over 24 hour blood. In addition, it looks as if you are reluctant to use large volumes of platelet concentrates and cryoprecipitates for your patients who bleed profusely; we are never short of these derivatives and could let you have plentiful supplies.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Marcela Contreras  
Director  
cc Dr F Seymour, RHA  
Dr Hilary Pickles, DHSS

GRO-C

cpm to Dr Moore ✓  
Would the MDU back up  
Prof Yacoub?