

Mr Newton FPA-FPS

From : Paul Pudlo CA : OPU2

Date : 20 March 1996

Copy : Dr Rejman
Mrs Marsden

RECOMBINANT BLOOD PRODUCTS

1. Thank you for your minute of 18 March.
2. You will have seen a copy of Dr Rejman's minute of 20 March which considers the evidence put forward in Mr Goulston's letter.
3. There has been some pressure (POs etc) to provide extra funds for recombinant blood products. But this has not been considered an appropriate candidate for inclusion as a PES pressure, for the reasons set out in Dr Rejman's minute and Dr Metters' letter of 25 May (copy attached). In short the position is not quite as simple as Mr Goulston would have us believe. Having said that I seem to recall that Hepatitis C as a whole has been identified as a PES pressure on the basis that (a) there may well be a large hidden morbidity, (b) knowledge of the disease and treatment regimes is growing rapidly and (c) it has had a high public profile in recent times. So in this wider context it could be argued that some account has been taken of the pressure to which Mr Goulston refers; however this is not to be shared with him.
4. In the circumstances I suggest that we reply along the lines that we are grateful to Mr Goulston for drawing this to our attention and reassuring him that his letter will be given full consideration. As I understand it we are not in a position to make public, details of PES information and I see little point in taking issue with any of the evidence he has presented.
5. In summary our advice is that recombinant blood products should not be raised as a PES pressure.

GRO-C

Paul Pudlo
Room 315, EH
Ext **GRO-C**