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Subject: Re: Query from the Guardian 

Maria

On the issue of treatment strikes by haemophiliacs, our line should be:

"Clotting factors provide an effective treatment for people with haemophilia, preventing serious damage and death. The risk from vCJD from these products is theoretical and unsubstantiated. Furthermore, no plasma-derived clotting factors currently used by the NHS are made from UK plasma, and many are made from US plasma where no case of BSE or vCJD have been reported. There is also a worldwide shortage of synthetic clotting factors so these could not currently be made available to all haemophilia patients."

We could add that patients who are contemplating treatment strikes should discuss the implications of this with their doctor.

Is that enough?

Charles