



**THE
HAEMOPHILIA
SOCIETY**

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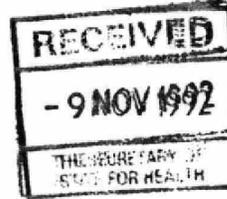
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*Very urgent please
Advice*

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Our Ref: GB/gb

5 November 1992

The Rt Hon Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
Richmond Terrace
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

Dear Mrs Bottomley

I am writing to express our concern that AIDS Unit at the Department of Health has issued instructions that earmarked AIDS funds should not be used to cover the costs of high purity Factor VIII for people with haemophilia who are HIV positive.

It has been demonstrated that the use of high purity Factor VIII can prolong the lives of patients with haemophilia who are HIV positive. The UK Regional Haemophilia Centre Directors recommended earlier this year that:

"High purity Factor VIII products should replace intermediate purity materials to restrict immunosuppression in HIV seropositive haemophilia patients requiring blood product therapy."

We understand that as a result of these instructions some HIV positive haemophilia patients have been taken off high purity products - an action that may well shorten their lives.

The Society is appalled by these instructions from the AIDS Unit and we ask that you have these instructions withdrawn as soon as possible.

This issue is of vital concern to people with haemophilia. We look forward to an early reply.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

David G Watters
General Secretary

CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH HAEMOPHILIA