

4th July, 1979.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Children's Department,
The London Hospital (Whitechapel).

Dear [REDACTED]

I felt I should write to you about an incident which occurred last week when Dr. [REDACTED] was on call for your department. [REDACTED] rang up one of our registrars to ask how to treat one of the children who we are seeing together later in the month. [REDACTED] name is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] has mild haemophilia with recurrent bleeding into the [REDACTED]. On this occasion the child required an injection of Factor VIII for his [REDACTED] and Dr. [REDACTED] was advised to give a bottle of NHS concentrate and was asked not to use the commercial preparation Haemofil. For reasons that are not entirely clear the commercial preparation was used.

I am rather unhappy about this incident for a number of reasons. Firstly I understand that through no fault of [REDACTED] own Dr. [REDACTED] was unaware of the arrangements for treating haemophilia at The London and did not even know where the concentrate was kept. As you know there are instructions for staff treating the disorders of haemostasis in children and general instructions for treating haemophilia available. Secondly I am anxious that children with mild haemophilia should not receive the commercial concentrate because of the substantial hepatitis risk. Thirdly the commercial concentrate is expensive.

I certainly do not wish to indulge in a witch-hunt against Dr. [REDACTED] but I do think that staff who are on duty at night should be aware of our local arrangements for treating haemophilia. I also think I will have to tighten up on my own arrangements for the supply of commercial concentrate, and I am planning to store this away in a separate place in future. I have also re-written the coagulation notes for House Physicians, a copy of which I enclose, and I will place these arrangements on the deep freeze and 4°C refrigerator in the Registrars' Room. Do you think there is anything I can do to improve the arrangements?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Senior Lecturer in Haematology.