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Ref: J/S240/78/7

9th November, 1978.

Mr. R.A. Kingham,
Small Grants Secretariat,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
London SE1

Dear Mr. Kingham,

STUDIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CHRONIC SEQUELAE OF FACTOR VIII
AND IX ASSOCIATED TRANSFUSION HEPATITIS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

As requested by you in your letter detailing the award of the research grant for the study of Factor VIII associated hepatitis, I discussed the question of maintaining patients on single batches or brands of Factor VIII for as long a period as possible with the Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors' at a meeting on September 15th.

There was unanimous agreement that in theory this was a good method of reducing the risk of hepatitis in patients under treatment. However, factors such as the shortage of Factor VIII, the large numbers of patients under treatment and particularly the cost of maintaining large stocks of Factor VIII such a policy would involve meant that they did not consider it to be a practical policy to stick rigidly to this regime. However, they agreed to bear this in mind where circumstances permit.

This question will again be considered at the Annual Meeting of the U.K. Haemophilia Centre Directors' on Monday 13th November at Oxford. I do not anticipate however, that the general opinion will be different from that of the Reference Centre Directors'.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

J. Craske.
Consultant Virologist