

Not for Publication

National Blood Transfusion Service

Tant Management Committee (DHSS/NW Thomas RHA)

for the Central Blood Laboratories

The proportional distribution of blood products prepared at the Central Blood Laboratories.

1. Blood products prepared at B.P.L. Clotree are currently distributed ^{very approximately} on the basis of an assessment of the number of patients in the Region ~~needing~~ requiring the product for their treatment.

While providing ~~an apparently~~ ^a ~~apparent~~ basis for distribution, this arrangement leads to a situation which - is imposing the incidence of Regions to produce plasma for B.P.L. and causing certain Regions to spend a ~~disproportionate~~ disproportionate amount of money on the treatment of certain groups of patients. The problem arises most acutely in the treatment of haemophiliacs when most if not all Regions have to supplement the amount of Factor VIII which they receive

from B.P.L. by commercial businesses. The present method of distribution leads to regions which make ^{the greatest} considerable efforts, & incur substantial expenditures, in producing plasma for B.P.L. receiving in return less than a proportional quantity of finished products and effectively subsidizing other regions which put less effort into plasma production. Several Regional Transfusion Directors have stated that they would be willing to step up plasma production considerably if they could be assured that they would receive all the finished products in return, & some Regions maintain that they could quickly become self sufficient in blood products on this basis.

2. Regional Transfusion Directors now accept that with certain safeguards which are discussed below they should receive from the Canadian Blood Laboratories finished blood products in quantities which are strictly proportional to the amount of plasma & other source materials which they send for processing. ~~also taking into account the yield of the finished product~~ Yields of finished product (particularly Factor VIII) per unit of plasma vary significantly

from Region to Region & yields, as well as volumes of starting material, would be taken into account when calculating a Region's entitlement to finished products

3. It is recognised that certain Regions have a concentration of haemophilia patients which may be disproportionately high in relation to the ^{general} population & hence their ability to collect plasma. Region Transfusion Directors accept that some arrangement would have to be worked out amongst the Regions to allow for this but they believe that a balancing scheme can be devised.

4. The Department is satisfied that the present method of distributing blood products is putting obstacles in the way of the achievement of self sufficiency in blood products & adding to the cost of the N.H.S. and It is considered that the time has come to switch to a system of proportional distribution of blood products as outlined above and they would hope that the Joint Management Committee will endorse its early introduction 65/54