

SUPPLIES OF FRESH FROZEN PLASMA FOR PRODUCTION OF FACTOR VIII  
CONCENTRATE

Almost a year ago we made a proposal to the Department that in order to supply plasma for the preparation of factor VIII concentrate, extra money could be given to about four centres near to Elstree where 120 ml of plasma would be removed from all units of blood.

The advantages of this scheme would be:

- 1) Proximity to B.P.L. would mean less delay and lower transport costs.
- 2) The four nominated centres would issue a standard product of plasma reduced blood with a haematocrit of approximately 50%.
- 3) The three metropolitan centres plus Oxford could supply about 66,000 litres of plasma per annum.
- 4) Other centres would not need to have been inconvenienced and their hospitals would go on receiving standard units of 'whole blood'.
- 5) As the demand for plasma increased, one extra centre at a time could be asked to change its system.
- 6) If adopted at the outset there would have been considerable capital and revenue cost savings.

We have been asked to take a fresh look at this idea and report to the next RTD meeting. Having done so, we are now convinced that it is too late as the central allocation of capital and revenue for factor VIII concentrate has been dispersed throughout the country. It would not be possible for the four centres to extend their fractionation beyond the scheduled programme without extra funding.

If the Department requires to expand its programme of harvesting fresh frozen plasma it would be worth considering concentrating the facilities at a few centres rather than to expect all regions to increase the useage of concentrated red cells beyond 40%.

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