

BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY

Dagger Lane, Elstree, Herts, WD6 3BX
Telephone: 01-953 6191 Telex: 8814267
Fax No: 01-207 4824



Director:
R. S. LANE, MD MRCP FRCPath.

GF/CW

15th December, 1989.

Dear Sir

NHS Blood Products Supplies 1990/91: Budget Allocations

In 1990/91 the Blood Products Laboratory (BPL) will process 500,000 litres of plasma provided by the National Blood Transfusion Service. The products which include albumin and Factor VIII for haemophiliacs will meet most of the demands from the NHS clinicians for patient care. This new level of output from BPL is the result of the successful completion of a new production unit financed by the DoH; it forms a cornerstone of Health Ministers' policy directives to achieve National self sufficiency for blood and blood products in the U.K.

In the past, BPL products were supplied without charge to the NHS - products were distributed mainly through Regional Transfusion Centres. In 1989/90 to improve accountability, a system of cross-accounting was introduced whereby BPL paid Regions for plasma and in return, Regions used plasma revenues to buy back finished products. For a number of reasons, the procedure has met with only partial success. With a view to next year, the most important identified deficiency has been a failure to accommodate the financial imbalance at regional level between revenue for plasma and total regional expenditure on blood products. During the current year regional and district budget holders have obtained blood products from BPL and from commercial suppliers.

A shared market by BPL and foreign companies is contrary to the principle of self sufficiency; commercial products are being bought while BPL products accumulate on the shelf when the latter are already essentially paid for by NHS funds. Inadequate communication of information and procedures between DoH and Health Authorities is mainly responsible for this situation and attention is drawn to the required actions.

In 1990/91 it is essential that NHS users of blood products who are budget holders or who determine the supply chain for blood products at regional and district levels, are made aware of the products that are available from BPL. It is equally important that this information is circulated while budgets for the purchase of blood products are still available for the purchase of blood products in 1990/91.

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The purpose of this letter is twofold: first, to draw these matters to your attention; second, to ask that the information is passed to the persons responsible as a matter of urgency. BPL need to know the NHS requirement for its products in the next financial year; BPL's Commercial Department can deal directly with budget holders to supply products and agree a price.

There are procedural implications for Regional and District budgets which will vary between regions, but these matters should not impede the implementation of self sufficiency in so far as BPL are able to respond to demand in the same way as normal commercial suppliers.

Continuing the failure to supply blood products from BPL to the NHS will result in a diminished requirement to process NBTS plasma - the unfortunate consequences of this action on NBTS are obvious and undesirable.

This letter is widely circulated and we look forward to your collaboration with us.

Yours

Faith Wemy

GRO-C

Mrs. G. Fryers
Commercial Manager

1990/91 product list and prices are attached.