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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr A D McIntyre Regional Directors	From: Mr J G Watt
Subject: Production of Intermediate Factor Concentrate at the Protein Fractionation Centre	Date: 19th January 1977

During the twelve months the Centre processed almost 9 000 litres of plasma and issued 5 800 doses of factor VIII concentrate; a total of 1.48 million international units.

The average dose issued was 256 units of factor VIII which provides an average commendably close to the desired dose of 250 units but the range of dose values issued during the year was unacceptably wide and must, inevitably, have caused problems during clinical administration. Narrowing of the range of vial dose is expected as the major effort of 1977 and it is hoped that the development of the ability to assay factor VIII within the PFC will help in this direction.

From the accompanying table it can be seen that the range of issues per month varied quite widely with the nadir in October when the effect of the process shut-down in July became evident in the issue figures. Since this will be an annual event it is necessary to plan to meet the variation in issue by stockpile of product during the earlier months. For a number of reasons but particularly because of the space limitations at the PFC it would be desirable if these stockpiles were developed at the Regional Transfusion Centres.

During 1976 the supply of fresh plasma for processing showed a steady gain throughout the year with substantial increases during the last three months as the effect of increased supply from the West of Scotland came to be apparent. The blockage of development arrangements at the North-East Centre by Management Committee of the Common Services Agency effectively prevented the expected expansion in supplies from that region.

Since, during most of the year, the process capacity at the PFC was much larger than the availability of fresh plasma the spare process time was utilised in recovery of factor VIII from cryoprecipitate supernatant and limited clinical investigation of this material would suggest that it is substantially inferior to intermediate factor VIII prepared from fresh plasma but, nevertheless, does have haemostatic capability and large reserves of this material are available at the PFC for clinical issue; 344 doses amounting to 70 000 international units of factor VIII activity.