

11th October 1978

Dr A D McIntyre
Scottish Home and Health Department
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DE

Dear Dr McIntyre

SUPPLIES OF PLASMA FOR FACTOR VIII

I have received, from Dr Iain Cook, notes on the meeting of Regional Transfusion Directors in England held on Wednesday 6th October and notice also the discussion held on supply of plasma for factor VIII production.

In view of the considerable and emotional discussions which have been occurring for several years on the supply of concentrate fractions containing factor VIII I was surprised to learn that Dr Maycock had declined additional supplies of fresh plasma on the grounds that the plant capacity was insufficient to cope. I presume that the plant to which reference is made is the process plant at Elstree and is not a reference to the UK national plant availability. I wish to assure you that the facility at the Protein Fractionation Centre for production of factor VIII concentrates is grossly underused; indeed, as you are aware, we have been processing cryoprecipitate supernatant for many months as a means of keeping key staff in gainful employment.

Since there now appears to be an excess of fresh plasma available in England and Wales it would appear that discussions between SHHD and DHSS require to be expedited with a view to supplying plasma for process in Scotland. The process capacity for fresh plasma at the Protein Fractionation Centre is 1 000 litres per week to provide factor VIII concentrate of which approximately 200 litres has been allocated to meet Scottish needs although, at the present time, only 100 litres of plasma enters process each week. The capacity to process the plasma further than factor VIII is, of course, seriously limited by the failure to reach a working arrangement for shift operation. By coincidence it happens that the first argument for/

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1. The first step in the process of the investigation is to determine the scope of the problem. This involves identifying the specific areas of concern and the objectives of the study. The next step is to collect data, which can be done through various methods such as interviews, surveys, and observations. Once the data is collected, it is analyzed to identify patterns and trends. Finally, the results of the investigation are reported, providing a clear and concise summary of the findings.

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Dr A. D McIntyre

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for the need to introduce shift working at the Protein Fractionation Centre was advanced 10 years ago tomorrow. I refrain from further comment.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

JOHN G WATT
Scientific Director

c.c. Major-General H C Jeffrey
All Regional Directors