

not needed

Proof of my responsibility
to add to the
importance of keeping to the
if possible giving the
to prevent
target
DMS
24/10

has done extremely
well in this; this extremely affects results as
have been more successful than we
had feared at one time would be possible.

I think
(if you agree)

Dr Owen
27/10

FACTOR VIII : AHG CONCENTRATE

May 8

1. I am very sorry for the delay in replying to Dr Owen's request (arising from my minute of 11 July) for information about the centrifuges for the Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree, and the position of two of the Regions; it has, unfortunately, taken longer than I would have wished to get to the stage of being able to report something firm.
2. As regards the centrifuges, assurances have been received from the manufacturers that delivery will be made in time to enable the BPL to process the increasing quantities of plasma expected to be received from Regional Transfusion Centres.
3. Each of the two Regions about whom we were uncertain in July presented a different problem. In one case the Region's bid for a share of the £0.5m was, by comparison with bids from other Regions, seriously out of proportion to the amount of plasma to be produced. We could not include them on their terms without prejudicing the programme as a whole; we saw no need for some of the expenditure they envisaged and we had no resources to fund it. The task was to persuade them to agree to provide the plasma we required basically on our terms and, if necessary, to meet any additional costs out of their own resources.
4. The other Region's ability to provide the plasma we require depended upon the bottle sterilising area in the Regional Transfusion Centre becoming available for separating plasma from blood and this in turn depended upon the Region themselves providing the necessary finance to enable the Transfusion Centre to change from bottles to plastic bags. We were able to resolve the latter point satisfactorily, but the Region then ran into problems of architectural feasibility and finance in connection with the conversion of the Transfusion Centre. Our task here was to persuade them to be as quick about resolving them as they could.
5. After a series of written and oral exchanges over the past few months both Regions have now given us reasonably satisfactory assurances that they can and will meet the targets which we originally set them and, with only minor modification, on the financial terms we first offered. We are now therefore in the position that all Regions have agreed to take part in the programme. Satisfactory though this is in itself, it is no guarantee that things will run smoothly and it will be necessary to monitor developments closely. Arrangements have already been made for this to be done.

HS2B
23 October 1975

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