

The Haemophilia Society 123 Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HR

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Paul Pudlo Department of Health Eileen House 80-94 Newington Causeway London SE1 8EF

19th October 1995

Dear Paul

Re: Availability of Interferon

I promised to let you know of any instances when interferon was being denied on the grounds of cost. We have heard of two such cases. The first is the South Devon Healthcare Trust where one patient has been told that there is no funding for interferon.

The second case is more complicated and concerns the Birmingham Childrens Hospital. Parents have been told that interferon is not available because there is no funding for it. I have talked to the liver specialist who says she is waiting for approval from the ethics committee. She also believes that GPs will pay for it rather than it coming from the haemophilia centre's budget. I would have thought it was more appropriate that each health authority paid for it through its contract with the haemophilia centre.

I would be grateful if you could look into these two cases.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Graham Barker Director of Services and Development

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