

It is clear from these figures that the increased use of N.H.S. material should have produced an economy in the purchase of commercial material but, due to extensive orthopaedic surgery being necessary following a series of road traffic accidents and bone fractures, the increase in N.H.S. material was inadequate for needs. From December 1984 all commercial material and N.H.S. material has been ordered by us through the Regional Blood Transfusion Service, to enable at long last a regional budgeting system to exist for the haemophilic population of Northern Ireland.

The figures already given are only for the straightforward, easily treated patients. The Province has a high number per capita of population of complicated patients who possess inhibitors to human Factor VIII. For example, one of these patients, during 1983 used 609,935 units of porcine Factor VIII at 40 pence per unit and another patient used Autoplex, 156,870 units at 59 pence per unit. Similarly, in the previous year one patient's individual usage for multiple injuries was 248,328 units of Armour Factor VIII at 22 pence per unit and a further inhibitor patient utilised 197,368 units of Autoplex.

I would stress that, for those who are unfamiliar with such patients, this replacement therapy was only used for life threatening bleeding episodes, no prophylactic or conservative treatment was undertaken. Up to date, the present treatment regimes for haemophilic patients only use heat treated N.H.S. material obtained from Edinburgh to avoid dissemination of HTLVIII infection. However, the remaining 11 inhibitor patients still require the most expensive material to be obtained, for use for lifethreatening bleeding problems.

1 August 1985

1975.	£ 65,000		
1981.	£ 120,000		
1982.	'H' ordinary	Inhibitor	TOTAL.
	£ 251,872	171,311	£ 423,263
1983	174,833.	263,341	£ 434,129
1984	166,752	217,747.	£ 384,529
			£ (464... pharmacy) fjs

Money on 2nd page

NORTHERN IRELAND HAEMOPHILIA REFERENCE CENTRE

FACTOR VIII USAGE

The Royal Victoria Hospital became designated as one of the nine United Kingdom Haemophilia Reference Centres in 1976. The purpose of a Reference Centre is to provide not only 24-hour facilities for all patients in a clinical respect but to enable medical and laboratory personnel to be taught the special tests necessary for diagnosis and monitoring of therapy.

In 1984/85 the register of people suffering from inherited bleeding disorders comprises 189 persons. This is broken down into:

Haemophilia A	124
Haemophilia B or Christmas Disease	16
Von Willebrand's disease	45
Factor X deficiency	2
Factor XIII deficiency	1
Factor XI deficiency	1

Out of this number of patients, 63 are residential and drawn from the Eastern Health Board area. Some 25 of these originate from the North and West Belfast District. The remaining patients are equally divided between the other Health Boards - 43 from the Northern Board, 43 from the Western Board and 40 under the aegis of the Southern Board.

In order to simplify the treatment of these patients, all the blood products necessary for treatment are held at the Reference Centre and issued to other hospitals in the Province, specifically designated for individual patients. Some 38 patients with Haemophilia A and one with Haemophilia B are on home treatment. This implies that they retain their own supplies of Factor VIII and with the help of relatives, inject themselves as soon as a bleed occurs. Up until December 1984 the treatment was virtually all commercial imported material and up until the end of 1982 this all originated from Immuno in Vienna, namely European Factor VIII. Thereafter the scare and implications for AIDS made great inroads into the European supplies, therefore we were grateful to receive American material from Armour Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. They were already regular suppliers of material for inpatient surgery.

	1982	1983	1984
Immuno Factor VIII	648,707	451,497	441,408
Armour Factor VIII	478,137	505,844	506,184
N.H.S. Factor VIII	12,960	159,090	525,710

N.H.S. Factor VIII only became available in December 1982.