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Daily Telegraph

31.7.85

## Aids alert as 400 get suspect blood

By DAVID MILLWARD.

**F**OUR hundred haemophiliacs in North-West England are to be screened for Aids after fears they could have contracted the disease by being given contaminated blood imported from America.

A North-West Regional Health Authority spokesman said that the tests have been ordered as a precaution. But Dr Richard Wensley, Director of Haemophilia at Manchester Royal Infirmary believes that on statistical evidence two people may have contracted the disease.

The blood was imported from America, where donors are paid, and in this case was untreated.

Haemophiliacs are given Factor Eight, a blood clotting agent, to stop them bleeding.

The health authority spokesman added that all supplies of the Factor Eight were being heat-treated to destroy any traces of the virus.

A Department of Health spokesman said last night: "If any contaminated batches are found anywhere then tests can be carried out on individuals to whom the blood has been given."

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