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Meeting of the Northern Regional Group
of Directors, Thursday 20th September 1979
at Liverpool BTS

Notes of the discussion on the memorandum on Implementation
of the Working Party on Trends in Blood Transfusion and
Blood Products.

Representatives from Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool were present.

It was not possible to arrive at a consensus agreement with respect to the recommendations on page 5 of this document. The following represent the main areas of discussion, together with the views of the various Regions present.

1. Objections were raised to a National plan for the production of blood products, the two under discussion being Factor VIII and PPF. A general comment was made that the amount of PPF of the order of 200g per 1000 of the population seemed excessive and the production target should be based on Factor VIII supplies, although this seemed to be a misinterpretation of the document which indeed proposed such a plan. It was generally considered that there were differences between Regions and each Region should assess its own needs.

2. With respect to pro rata supply there was dissension by representatives from Manchester and Liverpool where the demand for cryoprecipitate was still great and indeed in the view of Dr. Wensley was advantageous for the treatment of certain patients. Dr. Wagstaff confirmed that this was also a view being held by certain Haematologists in the Sheffield Region. In addition, a large number of single donations of fresh frozen plasma were used in the Manchester Region for replacement therapy following intensive plasmapheresis. Also because of acidification the plasma following platelet separation was unsuitable for Factor VIII production. Thus although the Manchester Region separate plasma from 40% of their intake within 18 hrs only a proportion of this was available for fractionation.

In Leeds and Sheffield, liquid plasma was being supplied through an arrangement prior to Dr. Lane's appointment as Director.

To summarise, it was felt that if certain anomalies with respect to the Regional practises could be resolved, pro rata supply was indeed a logical development although it was conceded that if fresh plasma could be separated more economically in certain Regions then it would be advantageous for this Region to concentrate on that task.

3. With respect to phase 1 of "Stop Gap" only Leeds and Sheffield felt that they could meet the requirement. Manchester and Liverpool considered that their demand and intended reduction of cryoprecipitate and other factors would not allow them to double the quantity of fresh plasma sent for fractionation.
4. There was general agreement with respect to the introduction of the single pack system and to the Regionalisation of pools for fractionation. It was hoped that the latter would improve communication between the Central Laboratory and the RFCs.

5. It was hoped that a dialogue could be set up with the Supra Regional Haemophilia Directors to determine realistic levels for Factor VIII production.
6. One Region (Manchester) recommended central purchasing of Factor VIII from commercial sources within each Region.

HHG:PBH
24.9.79

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