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Royal Free Hospital

HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE & HAEMOSTASIS UNIT

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CAL/MJ

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Mr Nicholas HIRSCH

GRO-C

Dear Mr Hirsch

It is our practice to keep you informed of issues that relate to haemophilia care. You may have heard or read about CJD and the concerns that the agent causing this may be transmitted by blood transfusion and blood products. **At the present time there is no evidence for this.** The basis for scientific speculation is that the new form of CJD (new variant CJD) infects the lymphocytes, a type of white cells which are found in the blood.

Blood Products used for the treatment of inherited bleeding disorders do not contain white cells.

As a consequence of these concerns, and as a precautionary measure, there have been two recent recalls of BPL Factor VIII batches because it was found that "a donor had not met the current health requirements for CJD".

According to our records, you received some of the 8Y batch FHB4419 in 1995.

What is known about the transmission of new variant CJD to humans is that it has probably arisen from ingestion of beef products containing the agent responsible for BSE in cattle. The medical and scientific issues are complex. We will ensure that we keep them under close review, as new information becomes available, so that we may keep you fully informed. In the meantime, if you have any concerns you wish to discuss, in the first instance please contact one of the nurses at the Centre on 0171 830 2557. If you wish to discuss these issues in person, please ask for an appointment with one of us, the consultant medical staff.

Yours sincerely

Professor Christine Lee

Dr **GRO-D**

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