

NORTHERN IRELAND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

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our ref. WMMcC/jg

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0003

31st December 1984

Dr R Perry
Protein Fractionation Centre
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RECEIVED [redacted] [redacted]	
DATE 17 JAN 1985	
NO. 2.46 - HTFVIII	
DR. R. J. PERRY	[initials]
[signature]	[initials]

Dear Bob

Heat Treated Factor VIII

This is to draw your attention to a small practical problem in relation to your heat treated vials of Factor VIII - you may well be aware of it already.

It seems that the process of heating has had an adverse effect on the properties of the rubber bungs which might potentially cause some risk to staff or other personnel preparing the material for administration. Normally, when the rubber bung is punctured with a syringe needle in order to add distilled water, the resultant puncture hole self-seals. With the heat treated vials, on the other hand, the puncture hole remains patent and this combined with pressure build-up inside the vial, allows the escape of some liquid and a slight aerosol spray. This has caused some concern to staff involved.

I am not suggesting for a moment any change in your current programme of heat treating finished product, especially as the material is hopefully "safe", at least from the AIDS point of view. I presume, after the initial programme, heat treatment will be carried out at an earlier stage of production. I was also wondering about the feasibility of vacuum filling which should resolve the problem of aerosols.

Finally, let me say that your rapid implementation of heat treatment is greatly appreciated here, but I thought I should pass on to you this small practical difficulty.

Compliments of the Season.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

W M MCCLELLAND
DIRECTOR

GRO-C

This is unlikely since the bungs should be compatible with sterilisation (115°) but we ought to look

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