

Message from the Director of Health Care/Medical Director
11th October 1996

EM/CMO/96/21

TO: Regional and District Directors of Public Health

UKHCDO GUIDELINES

You may have seen or be aware of an advance draft of Guidelines on Therapeutic Products to Treat Haemophilia and Other Hereditary Coagulation Disorders prepared by the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation (UKHCDO). The latest draft which the Department has seen states that the Department of Health is one of a number of bodies which has reviewed and approved the document. THIS IS NOT THE CASE and Dr Winyard has spoken and written to the Chairman of UKHCDO to express our concern.

Some of the recommendations in the guidelines, notably that recombinant factor VIII is the treatment of choice for all patients, would at present lead to significant additional costs. Health authorities will need to consider the case for additional expenditure on the treatment of haemophiliacs alongside other calls on their resources, bearing in mind the good safety record of products derived from human plasma.

DDPHs may wish to ensure that relevant local providers are aware of the contents of this message.

Any enquiries about this message should be addressed to Dr Andrzej Rejman (Tel:) or Mr Kevin Guinness (Tel:) in the Operational Policy Unit, Eileen House, 80-94 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EF.

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