



NORTH WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

National Blood Transfusion Service

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Date:

17th February, 1983

Dr. D. Walford,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Hannibal House,
Elephant and Castle,
London,
SE1 6TE.

Dear Diana,

I enclose copies of the first two pages of the AABB news print which has some statements on the AIDS situation. I think that we will have to carefully watch this situation and perhaps when I come back from Washington at the end of February, we could meet to discuss it, because the most important recommendation that is coming from the U.S.A. is the question of whether there should be an increased usage of cryoprecipitate, and if this philosophy takes off in the U.K. it will have considerable implications for the Regional Centres and for the plasma supply situation.

You will note that they have defined groups of haemophiliacs who may benefit from cryoprecipitate, i.e., new born infants and children under 4, newly identified patients and patients with mild haemophilia. In the North West Region we still do maintain this policy, although I do not think that this is universal throughout the country. This does have an affect on plasma supplies since in the current financial year we will manufacture some 19,000 cryoprecipitates and, of course, this limits the plasma that one can send for Factor VIII preparation since this is about 20-25% of total usage.

I understand the Haemophilia Directors met earlier this week and discussed the situation and although I do not think any conclusions were drawn, questions were raised, such as the use of hepatitis reduced material, whether the N.H.S. material would be safer than commercial and the possibilities of screening donors. The latter problem is a major one and you will note the recommendations that are being made in the U.S.A. on this aspect.

It was quite an interesting meeting yesterday and there are a couple of small matters that I would like to talk to you about in connection with some of the items that were discussed, but they are not urgent. I return from Washington on the 28th February, 1983, and will get in touch with you shortly there after.

Yours sincerely,

H.H. GUNSON,
Director.

p.s. You might be interested also in another article on AIDS which appeared in
* Science recently.

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