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Your reference
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To Regional Directors of Public Health
Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinators
Regional Consultants in Communicable Disease Medicine
Regional Haemophilia Centre Directors

19 August 1992

Dear Colleagues

HIGH PURITY FACTOR VIII: EARMARKED AIDS FUNDS

Following the recommendations of the UK Regional Haemophilia Centre Directors on the use of high purity Factor VIII, we have received several enquiries asking whether earmarked AIDS funds should be used to cover the costs of high purity Factor VIII for haemophiliacs who are HIV positive.

Following consultation with colleagues in the Department, we have reached the view that the provision of high purity Factor VIII, like any other new treatment, should be funded from mainstream NHS allocations.

This letter is to emphasise that view and to add that it therefore follows that earmarked AIDS funds should not be used for this purpose.

Although I acknowledge that HIV may have led the drive for the development of high purity Factor VIII it is inconceivable that non-HIV infected haemophiliacs will not also demand the purest factor available. Additionally, I am advised that the price differential between normal and high purity Factor VIII is likely to be short term, and it would be unrealistic to separate the additional costs of the purified product given to HIV positive haemophiliacs from those who are sero-negative. For all these reasons we do not feel that specific earmarked funds are required to allow for the introduction of high purity Factor VIII for sero-positive haemophiliacs.

I hope this is helpful.

With Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

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GRO-C

DR GWYNETH LEWIS
AIDS Unit