

University Department of Haematology

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THE UNIVERSITY
of MANCHESTER

Please copy to Mr P. Halls 10/9

Revised

*The London case has been
sorted out. The purchasers
are to pay*

CRMH/KJ

7 September 1995

GRO-C

4/9

Dr A Rejman
Senior Medical Officer
Dept of Health
Eileen House
80-94 Newington Causeway
London
SE1 6EF

Dear Andrej

You were asking us yesterday to let you know of specific problems that we have encountered in relation to Health Authorities paying for alpha Interferon for the treatment of hepatitis C. Since the Secretary of State for health has gone on record in the House as saying that nobody suitable for Interferon therapy should be denied this.

I have to tell you that we have encountered consistent problems with two of our Health Authorities, namely Central Manchester and Trafford Health Authority. These two Health Authorities take the rather paradoxical view that they were paying for haemophilia services before and we should just absorb it within our costs despite the fact that no Interferon was prescribed in this practice before the product gained it's licence.

We have not in general been prescribing it to HIV positive patients or to middle aged or older patients but, have tended to push it for those with abnormal LFT's who are relatively young and HIV negative. We are not therefore talking in terms of very large numbers which should cause the Health Authority significant financial embarrassment.

I should add that these selfsame Health Authorities are also refusing to pay us for surgery, mobilising the same argument despite the fact that prior to me taking up post in Manchester virtually no surgery was taking place. Our cost per case contract exclude surgery and Interferon, and in each case we ask for permission to pay in advance of starting the treatment.

Consultants: Dr C G Geary, Dr J A Liu Yin, Dr G S Lucas, Dr C R M Hay

Associate Specialist: Dr K I Cinkotai

Top Grade Clinical Scientist: Dr K Hyde (Email: KHYDE@

GRO-C

RECEIVED
16 SEP 1995

9/55

I should be grateful for your help in resolving this issue.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Charles Hay
Consultant Haematologist
Director Manchester Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre

PS - I should be grateful for a photocopy of the relative passages in Hansard.

Copy: Dr B Colvin
Consultant Haematologist
The London Hospital
Whitechapel
London
E1 1BB

Mr G James
Contracts Manager
Cobbett House
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Ms J Entwistle
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