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MW/SP

May 2002

All UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors

Dear Colleague

**Prescriptions for haemophiliacs infected with HIV and/or hepatitis viruses**

You will be aware that a particularly iniquitous situation exists wherein patients with haemophilia, who have been infected with HIV and/or hepatitis viruses through the use of contaminated coagulation factor concentrates prescribed on the National Health Service, currently have to pay for prescriptions for the treatment of these conditions.

This has understandably caused great resentment amongst patients with haemophilia, particularly as patients attending GUM clinics who have acquired HIV through other means are traditionally ascribed a code, which allows them to have free prescriptions.

The Macfarlane Trust has been in dialogue with the Department of Health about this situation but – whilst there is strong agreement that the situation is wholly unreasonable – there is no immediate prospect of being able to create an exemption clause for haemophiliac patients as part of the national prescription form. We are left, therefore, in trying to establish some form of local solution. In a number of centres it has been possible to persuade the local pharmacy to allow haemophilia centres (or other hospital units treating haemophilia patients for HIV and/or hepatitis) to issue prescriptions with a code, as in GUM clinics.

It would be very much appreciated if you could try and establish a similar system in your own institution. If you are not directly responsible for the management of HIV and/or hepatitis in your patients, could I ask you to forward this correspondence to the relevant medical team.

To make sure that this correspondence reaches those doctors who are treating virally infected patients with haemophilia, copies of this letter have also been circulated to patients registered with the Macfarlane Trust.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

**Dr Mark Winter**  
Medical Representative  
The Macfarlane Trust