

D. Maycock for information. (M.A.)

7.19

Regional Transfusion Centre,
Northfield Road,
Crookes,
Sheffield 10

26th September, 1946

To:-
Medical Superintendents,
Pathologists,
Officers in Charge of Blood Banks,
Officers in Charge of Plasma Stores.

Dear

PLASMA AND SERUM

Attention has again been drawn to the danger of homologous serum disease following the transfusion of plasma or serum⁺. A follow-up of 2,040 cases receiving plasma and/or serum has shown an incidence of 7.3%. Some batches of plasma and serum produced jaundice in 30% of the recipients. The mortality may be in the region of 1 or 2% but is not yet known with certainty.

Hospitals are strongly advised to use blood rather than plasma whenever possible, until the problem of producing a plasma free from this risk has been solved. It is desirable that the use of plasma (or serum) should be confined to those cases where the administration of blood products is essential, but the use of whole blood would be less effective or impracticable, e.g. burns, certain injuries with haemoconcentration, cases in which a special investigation (e.g. Rh compatibility) must be made before blood can be safely given, and Institutions at which there is no blood bank.

When plasma or serum are transfused, the batch and bottle numbers should be recorded in the patient's notes so that batches suspected of icterogenicity can be traced and withdrawn.

GRO-C: Aubert

.....
Regional Transfusion Officer

- + (1) Homologous Serum Jaundice, Spurling, Shone, and Vaughan
British Medical Journal. Sept. 21st. 1946. p.409
- (2) Transfusion Jaundice. Ibid. Leading Article p. 423
- (3) Proceedings Royal Society of Medicine. Homologous Serum
Jaundice 39 649 (Aug. 1946).