

**SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES PRESENTATION**  
**LEIGHTON HOSPITAL**

**Directors, status, relationship with RTC and regional network**

1. Leighton Hospital in Crewe (“Leighton” or “the Centre”) treated a small number of bleeding disorder patients. In a 1990 list, it was described as not an official haemophilic centre and as being subject to special arrangements [[HCDO0000119\\_138](#)]. However, it had its own UKHCDO number (069) and was referred to as an associate centre in a 1985 letter by Dr Gunson, director of the Manchester Regional Transfusion Centre [[NHBT0089555\\_001](#)].
2. The identity of Leighton’s director in the 1970s and 1980s is not always clear from the documents.
  - a. Dr Howard Allison was listed as director, as well as being referred to as a consultant pathologist, in Leighton’s 1977 annual return, which was provided alongside that from Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital (“RMCH”) [[HCDO0001183](#) pp.11-12]. The return records that three haemophilia A patients received their treatment at Leighton because of the distance in travelling to RMCH.
  - b. Leighton’s 1982 return, also provided alongside RMCH’s and referring to the Centre by number only, referred to the director as “*Paediatrician Dr Chandran / Dr K Evans*” [[HCDO0001646](#) p.18].
  - c. The Centre’s 1983 return – provided in the same way – listed the director as Dr Chandran [[HCDO0001744](#) p.15].
  - d. Leighton’s 1984-85 returns listed the director as Dr Evans [[HCDO0001828](#) and [HCDO0001922](#)].
3. Dr Allison was referred to as a consultant pathologist in Leighton’s pathology laboratory in an August 1985 letter [[NHBT0079494](#)]. He continued to work at Leighton Hospital in the early 1990s [[UHMB0000006\\_014](#)].

4. Leighton was supplied with blood and blood products by Manchester RTC, at least in the mid-1980s: see, for example, an August 1985 letter from Dr Gunson to Dr Allison [NHBT0079494]. In a February 1985 letter to BPL regarding the allocation of heat-treated factor VIII, Dr Gunson noted that Manchester RTC occasionally supplied factor VIII to the associate centre at Leighton Hospital [NHBT0089555\_001].
5. Leighton appears to have been part of a regional network: Dr Allison attended a North West Supra Regional Haemophilia meeting in April 1986 [NHBT0094580].
6. During a discussion on factor VIII overspend at a May 1993 meeting of the Mid Cheshire Hospitals Trust Blood Transfusion Committee, at Leighton Hospital, there “*was some debate as to what extent Leighton should be treating these [haemophilia] patients as recommendations in the official circular suggested that patients should be treated by and in conjunction with Regional Centres*” [NHBT0083304].

### **Number of patients treated, treatment policies and product usage**

#### *Annual returns 1977-1986*

7. The available annual returns for Leighton in this period record the following patient numbers and blood product usage:
  - a. 1977: the Centre treated three haemophilia A patients with cryo (6,160 units) [HCDO0001183 p.12].
  - b. 1980: Leighton treated one haemophilia A patient with cryo in hospital (600 units) [HCDO0001437].
  - c. 1981: one haemophilia A patient was treated with 4 packs of cryo in hospital [HCDO0001538].
  - d. 1982: Leighton treated two von Willebrand’s patients with cryo in hospital (19 packs) [HCDO0001646 p.18].

- e. 1983: two von Willebrand's patients were treated with cryo in hospital (54 packs) [[HCDO0001744](#) p.15].
- f. 1984: Leighton treated two von Willebrand's patients with cryo in hospital (11,600 units) [[HCDO0001828](#)].
- g. 1985: the number of patients is not identified clearly, but it would appear that the Centre treated one Willebrand's patient with 42 bags of cryo in hospital [[HCDO0001922](#)].

*Other*

- 8. As of February and May 1985, Leighton had not submitted any named patients to BPL for heat-treated product [[NHBT0089555\\_001](#) and [NHBT0089564](#)].
- 9. A medical record for a Leighton patient with haemophilia shows treatment with cryo in 1984 and 1988 before a switch to factor VIII in 1989 [[HCDO0000125\\_069](#)].

**Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and AIDS and response to risk**

- 10. Dr Evans' understanding of hepatitis and AIDS risks are addressed in the note on RMCH. Very little information is otherwise available on the knowledge of Leighton clinicians. Neither Dr Allison nor Dr Chandran attended UKHCDO meetings in the 1970s or 1980s.
- 11. In March 1989, Dr Allison corresponded with Dr Love at Manchester RTC regarding a patient who had developed NANB hepatitis following blood transfusions at Leighton and Manchester Royal Infirmary between June 1987 and July 1988 [[NHBT0102260](#)].<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The patient died in 1988, though the cause is unclear.

## Other issues

12. Leighton was involved in the HCV lookback exercise. At a July 1995 blood transfusion committee meeting, it was reported that, since the previous meeting, 17 out of a total of 20 forms had been processed [NHBT0083301]. Five patients had been found alive, nine were dead, and “*it had not been possible to trace the notes of three patients, due to the expiry of the legal requirement of eleven years for retaining the notes*”.<sup>2</sup> Other lookback documents include a 1995 letter relating to a patient who received a blood transfusion at Leighton Hospital in 1989 [NHBT0097879\_009], and another relating to a 1991 transfusion [NHBT0097880\_006].

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<sup>2</sup> See also the minutes of the committee’s April 1995 meeting, recording the chair’s statement that “*in line with Trust Board policy records were destroyed, after an agreed period, unless specifically marked as of use for research purposes. Where records were identified in such a way they were microfiched and copied*” [NHBT0083302].