

SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES
CARSHALTON HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

The Centre and relationship with other Haemophilia Centres

1. The Haemophilia Centre at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton was designated as centre number 124.¹
2. A 1973 letter from the South London Regional Transfusion Centre recorded that St Helier was one of the non-haemophilia centre hospitals to which it supplied cryoprecipitate.²
3. Dr Bernstock at St Helier Hospital was among the recipients of a November 1976 letter from Professor Ingram at St Thomas's Hospital concerning the distribution of NHS concentrate.³ At that time, Dr Bernstock was Chair of the South-West Thames Haematology Working Party.
4. St Helier Hospital appears to have been designated as a haemophilia centre by 1977. It was part of the St Thomas's Supraregion of haemophilia centres⁴ and was described as an associate centre in its 1983 annual return.⁵
5. Dr Bernstock was the Centre's Director in the late 1970s and early 1980s.⁶ It appears that Dr Judith Behrens succeeded Dr Bernstock in 1982.⁷ Dr Behrens seems to have remained as the Centre's Director in the remainder of the 1980s.⁸
6. The Centre had a relationship with the haemophilia centre at St George's Hospital, London. In a February 1985 letter to Dr Snape at BPL, Dr Behrens wrote that she did not think it necessary to make a regular order for NHS heat-treated Factor VIII

¹ WITN3826016

² DHSC0100026_178

³ CBLA0000503

⁴ HCDO0000138_012

⁵ HCDO00001704

⁶ HCDO0000138_007, HCDO0002527 and HCDO0001505.

⁷ See CBLA0005866, July 1982 report recording that Dr Behrens reported that a five year old patient had gone into cardiac arrest following an injection of NHS Factor IX 9D (the patient recovered overnight)

⁸ See the annual returns and other documents referred to below.

concentrate.⁹ She explained: *“The number of our patients is very small, and most problems are dealt with at our local centre, St. George’s Hospital. ... In the event of any emergency situation we would almost certainly be able to acquire the necessary material from either Tooting Blood Transfusion Centre or St George’s itself.”*

Numbers of patients treated

7. In January 1979, Dr Bernstock informed Miss Spooner (at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre) that the Centre had *“had no haemophilia cases at all in 1978”* and so would not be completing an annual return for that year.¹⁰ Similarly, the Centre did not treat any patients in 1979.¹¹
8. The Centre’s full annual return for 1980 is not available. A list of patients and their treatment records that 1 haemophilia A patient and 1 von Willebrand’s patient were treated at the Centre.¹²
9. In 1981, the Centre treated 1 haemophilia B patient and 1 von Willebrand’s patient.¹³
10. In 1983, the Centre treated 1 haemophilia B patient and 1 von Willebrand’s patient.¹⁴
11. No other annual returns are available for the period to 1985.

Blood products usage

12. In 1980, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁵

⁹ BPLL0010608

¹⁰ HCDO0002524

¹¹ HCDO0002527

¹² HCDO0001407

¹³ HCDO0001505

¹⁴ HCDO0001704

¹⁵ HCDO0001407

- a. The haemophilia A patient was treated with commercial concentrate (from Armour) (29 bottles/approximately 8,500 units).
- b. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate and tranexamic acid.

13. In 1981, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁶

- a. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate and commercial concentrate (Factorate) in hospital.
- b. The haemophilia B patient was treated with NHS concentrate in hospital.

14. In 1983, the Centre treated its patients as follows:¹⁷

- a. The von Willebrand's patient was treated with cryoprecipitate in hospital.
- b. The haemophilia B patient was treated with NHS concentrate. The return included the following comment: *"unfortunately because IX concentrates are issued to another hospital we are unable to say what proportion of the conc was used at home"*.¹⁸

15. In 1986, the Centre was involved in the Factorate exchange programme.¹⁹

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and AIDS/HTLV-III

16. UKHCDO minutes do not record any attendance from Dr Bernstock at meetings of centre directors. Dr Behrens attended the 18 September 1992 UKHCDO meeting but is not recorded as having attended any earlier meetings.²⁰ It may be reasonable to assume that, as the Centre's directors, Drs Bernstock and Behrens would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and the minutes of, UKHCDO meetings that they did not attend.

¹⁶ HCDO0001505

¹⁷ HCDO0001704

¹⁸ HCDO0000185_006

¹⁹ ARMO0000565

²⁰ HCDO0000248_013

Other information

17. In February 1986, a consultant physician wrote to Dr Behrens regarding the treatment of a patient who had been infected with HTLV-III and was “*gradually coming to terms with the problem*”.²¹ Later correspondence recorded that the patient had been infected following a blood transfusion at St Helier Hospital in May 1982 and that he died in 1988.²²

18. In 1988, the Centre enrolled a patient in the BPL 8Y Study.²³

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²¹ DHSC0006190_045

²² DHSC0006190_081 and DHSC0014978_101

²³ BPLL0003575 and OXUH0002106_012