

SMALLER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES
GLOUCESTER HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

The Centre

1. The Haemophilia Centre at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital was designated as centre number 30. No documents have been identified which refer explicitly to the Centre's director, but Dr Philip Kingston, a consultant haematologist, appears to have been the clinician with responsibility for haemophilia patients (at least in the 1980s).¹
2. The Gloucester Centre was part of Gloucester Health Authority.²

Relationship with other Haemophilia Centres

3. The Centre was part of the Oxford Supraregion of haemophilia centres in 1977-1982 but was described as not being a centre and as subject to special arrangements.³
4. The Centre appears to have had a relationship with the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, which provided it with Factor IX concentrate for a patient's home treatment in 1982.⁴ Details of the Centre's patients and their treatment in 1983 appear to have been provided to UKHCDO alongside those for the Oxford Centre.⁵

Number of patients treated

5. No full annual returns are available for the Centre in the period to 1985.
 - a. In a September 1982 letter to Dr Rizza, Dr Kingston recorded that two patients had been treated at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in the previous year: a

¹ HCDO0001519

² HCDO0001519

³ HCDO0000138_012

⁴ HCDO0001519

⁵ HCDO0000171_013

haemophilia carrier and a patient with Factor IX deficiency (i.e. a haemophilia B patient).⁶

- b. A 1983 patient list recorded that 1 haemophilia A patient, 1 haemophilia B patient and a haemophilia A carrier were registered at the Centre, but none of them appears to have been treated.⁷

Blood products usage

- 6. In 1976, a haemophilia patient was admitted to the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and treated with cryoprecipitate.⁸
- 7. In a September 1982 letter on treatment provided to patients “*in the last year*”, Dr Kingston recorded that the haemophilia carrier had been treated with 18 units of cryoprecipitate, and that the patient with Factor IX deficiency had been treated with 88 vials (approximately 500 units) of freeze-dried concentrate from the Oxford Haemophilia Centre.⁹ The concentrate was provided to the patient’s GP for home treatment.
- 8. The Centre was included in a list of recipients of an April 1984 letter from Dr Snape, providing information on BPL/PFL’s Factor IX concentrate.¹⁰

Knowledge of risk of hepatitis and AIDS/HTLV-III

- 9. UKHCDO minutes do not record any attendance from Dr Kingston at meetings in the 1970s and 1980s. Given that special arrangements applied to the Centre, it is unclear whether Dr Kingston would have received copies of the reports circulated for, and the minutes of, UKHCDO meetings.

⁶ HCDO0001519

⁷ HCDO0000171_013

⁸ TREL0000314_045

⁹ HCDO0001519

¹⁰ BPLL0005856

Other information

10. In 1986, Dr Kingston was approached by a foundation wishing to set up a private blood bank in Gloucestershire that would store blood for autologous transfusion. He made his opposition to this venture clear in a December 1986 letter to Dr Smithies at the Department of Health and Social Security, commenting that it intended “*to play upon the public’s susceptibility by claiming that this will avoid the risk of being infected with the HIV virus.*”¹¹ Similar comments from Dr Kingston were recorded in a newspaper report.¹²

11. In December 1989, Gloucester Health Authority was a plaintiff in a group claim against Armour, Alpha Therapeutics and other pharmaceutical companies for damages ‘*for the supply by each of the Defendants to them of blood products (namely Factor VIII and Factor IX) contaminated by the HIV virus.*’¹³

MICHELLE FRENCH
Inquiry Legal Team

JENNI RICHARDS KC
ADAM BOUKRAA
Inquiry Counsel Team
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¹¹ DHSC0004753_113. See also a February 1987 memo by Dr Kingston [DHSC0004753_042].

¹² SBTS0004430_025

¹³ DHSC0032392_014