

GRO-C

Sue Shepherd

From Mike McGovern

Date: 16 November 1998

Blood

cc

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nvCJD AND BLOOD: SITUATION REPORT

Here are contributions for the nvCJD 'round up' following your minute of 13 November. I have discussed with the MCA and it includes the latest position from the NBA and the fractionating centres, BPL and PFC. Please let me know if you need more.

The move to produce blood products from imported plasma:

All sites for the collection of plasma abroad have now been approved by the Medicines Control Agency. Currently Bio Products Laboratory (BPL -Elstree) and the Protein Fractionation Centre (PFC -Edinburgh) are processing blood products. Both plants will be in a position to provide blood products made from normal plasma eg Factor VIII Factor IX and intravenous immunoglobulin by January 1999 and those made from hyperimmune plasma eg Anti- D by July 1999. Both groups are meeting with the MCA later this week to plan the introduction of the newly sourced blood products and the necessary variations to the licences.

Leucodepletion of the blood supply:

Progress is good and the move to 100% leucodepletion will be completed by October 1999 as planned. In the run up to October 1999 certain centres will be ahead of others and will act as pilots from which expertise and experience will be forthcoming. There are no anticipated snags.

Dr Mike McGovern**Health Services Directorate**