USE OF PLASMA FROM A DONOR WHO DEVELOPED vCJD

Facts

- In June 1996 and January 1997, BPL manufactured products from two plasma pools which contained plasma from a donor who has recently been diagnosed as having vCJD. The products were Factor 8, Factor 9, Antihrombin 3, Albumin and Intravenous Immunoglobulin.

- All the products have now passed their expiry dates. In addition, during 1999 all products still within expiry date were recalled by BPL as part of the change-over from UK to US plasma. The first letter from BPL offering to replace UK plasma products with the new US-plasma sourced products was issued in February 1999.

- BPL have notified Trusts who received affected products and provided the batch numbers.

- All blood products in the UK are made from imported plasma. Plasma from UK donors has not been used to make blood products since 1998. BPL's products are made from plasma sourced in the US where there is no evidence of BSE or vCJD.

The following general points are being made by DH in response to enquiries.

- There is no evidence that classic CJD or variant CJD have ever been transmitted via blood products, although the possibility cannot be ruled out entirely.

- As a precautionary measure against this theoretical risk, plasma from UK donors is no longer used to make blood products. BPL use plasma from US donors where there is no evidence of BSE or vCJD.

- All affected products – manufactured in 1996 & 1997 - are now past their expiry date, and those remaining in 1999 were recalled when BPL stopped using plasma from UK donors.