

3.2.14

Dr Rejman  
HCD-SCS

From: P Spellman HCD-PH1

Date: 22 May 1995

Copy: Mr Scofield CA-OPU  
Mr Derbyshire EOR1  
Mr D Pink HCD-PHIA  
Mrs K Marsden FCIA  
Mr S King HCD-  
PHIA (o/r)

**THERAPEUTIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATMENT  
OF HAEMOPHILIACS WITH INHIBITORS**

1. We met, by videoconference, with Mr Scofield, Mr Derbyshire and Mrs Marsden on 18 May. Following discussion, it was concluded that you would attend the meeting on 6 June of UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Working Party to advise them that:

- (i) if they wished to have the Department's endorsement of their paper for management of Factor VIII inhibitors, they would have to submit their recommended guidelines for appraisal by the Clinical Outcomes Group. I attach, as promised, COG's criteria for the guidelines appraisal system for you to give to the Directors.
- (ii) if they did not wish to submit to COG, they were free to approach purchasers direct - but could expect to have to assure purchasers that their recommendations represented value for money as well as efficacy of treatment.

2. We also concluded that

- (i) EOR should not be asked to proceed to undertake a full cost-benefit analysis at this stage. (Obviously, if the recommendations go to COG, the NHS Executive will have to be satisfied about cost implications - which you thought might lead overall to a slightly higher cost).
- (ii) HCD-PH would take note of the very high costs for individual purchasers, especially where there may still be any clustering of haemophiliacs in this category, as part of the consideration of policy development on very high cost interventions generally.

*but  
Keith Derbyshire  
would provide  
info on what  
was missing  
from current  
papers to  
purchasers  
was effective  
treatment*

3. We also recognised that MPs might continue to take an interest in constituent's cases but that the Department could not immediately justify committing itself to a great deal of work, including cost benefit analysis, in terms of external recommendations based on opinion, albeit of an expert nature, without knowledge of any scientific evidence to support the self-proclaimed experts' views.

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4. I am, as also promised, copying these papers to Mr Ennis in RD3 to check whether the Cochrane Collaboration and/or NHS Centre for Reviews & Dissemination have undertaken any literature reviews in this area, and to check whether there is any known research in progress. I will let you have an answer in due course, although this is unlikely to be before your 6 June meeting.

PAT SPELLMAN  
HCD-PH  
ROOM 3W61  
EXT: **GRO-C**