

 Charles Lister
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Subject: HAEMOPHILACS AND SYNTHETIC CLOTTING FACTORS

Emma

Press Office tell me that this story is gathering steam again. The story of the haemophilia patient who is refusing treatment with plasma derived clotting factors was again in the press yesterday and I understand that he is being interviewed on Channel 4 tonight.

You may like to have a copy of the following lines to take which we've sent to Press Office:

- no one can force a patient to take any treatment;
- however, the risk from vCJD is theoretical and the Government has taken action to reduce the risk even further by ceasing, since 1998, to use UK plasma in the manufacture of blood products. The Bio Products Laboratory (the NHS blood products manufacturer) uses plasma from US donors where there is no evidence of BSE or vCJD)
- clotting factors are very effective in preventing the often crippling consequences of haemophilia and, in severe cases, can prevent death. We believe that patients would be ill advised to stop taking these treatments - all of which have been licensed by CSM on the basis of safety, quality and efficacy.
- Ministers are actively considering the case for providing synthetic clotting factors for all adult haemophilia patients in England once these are available in sufficient quantity to meet the treatment needs of patients. There is currently a world wide shortage of recombinant.

We also have a PQ from Lord Morris wanting to know when Ministers are going to reach a decision the recombinant issue.

Charles