

IN CONFIDENCE

Reference.....

3121

11.11.84

HSI.

AIDS CONTAMINATION OF FACTOR VIII CONCENTRATE

1. This is to add to the information about the recent BPL case I provided yesterday by telephone.

2. A total of 885 units were supplied - 485 to Denver RBS - 10.8.84
400 to Cardiff RBS - 17.8.84

These were passed down to Haemophilia Centres for supply to patients.

Thus it is known by the Centres precisely which patients received supplies from this batch. BPL are recalling the batch and the UK under control. I do not yet know how many patients received the possibly contaminated material. This information is being pursued.

3. The donation was taken in March 1984. The donor is a practising homosexual who has Kaposi's sarcoma, leucopenia and anaemia. He was admitted to hospital "a few days ago" with probable AIDS. The patient was questioned at the donor service, but the indication is that he was not entirely truthful in his answers to questions. Would you let me have details of how these interviews are conducted, together with copies of any leaflets distributed etc? Are these under review?

4. Checking of hospitals' monitoring. I understand the hospitals are to monitor closely the haemophilia patients who received the Factor VIII. When we have more information, will you be checking on this action I discussed with Dr Cunningham (CHD) who suggests that, since

Haemophilic patients are involved, this will fall in your area.

5. Alpha Therapeutic (UK) Ltd. In this earlier case involving anti-haemophilic Factor VIII from the States, the USA company has advised us on their donor screening procedure. An extract from their letter is enclosed.

6. "Guardian" article (28.9.84). You have a copy of this press cutting. I understand the patient is a haemophilic who recently moved to Scotland. He was being treated in the Newcastle area - name of the hospital is not known to SHHD. This Department is not taking any action as the cause of the disease is not in Scotland. The reference to Newcastle suggests a link with the Alpha case - details of which you already have.

7. The Alpha or BPL reports were received through the Defect Report Centre with Medical Division. We are to keep a cumulative record of these cases. Should any further information come your way no doubt you will let me know. We shall do likewise to HSI (and CHD).

8. I apologise for this handwritten minute - for reasons of confidentiality and urgency.

5 October 1984

cc. (HDI)
Principal Medical Director

MEDICALS DIVISION
MARKET TOWERS
Rm. 1812 Ext. 3085