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Dear

HEAT TREATED FACTOR VIII

In the letter from the Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors to the British Medical Journal on the 22 June it was apparent that at certain Haemophilia Centres Factor VIII concentrate which had not been heat treated was still in use.

I am now writing to give you the latest information of the availability of heat-treated Factor VIII concentrate. The Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree has been heat-treating all their output of Factor VIII concentrate since April this year; whilst there was a period during which only limited supplies were available, I am pleased to say that output has now been increased to the maximum level possible in the current BPL plant. Until the new BPL plant comes into production later next year, there will continue to be a need to obtain additional supplies of Factor VIII from commercial sources. I understand that all commercial Factor VIII concentrate now imported into this country is also heat treated. There would thus appear to be no longer any need to use un-heat-treated Factor VIII concentrate.

Yours sincerely


Deputy Chief Medical Officer

VT3/A1