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SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Telephone: [REDACTED]

28 March 1973

TRENDS IN THE TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIA

Antihæmophilic globulin (AHG) concentrate is in many instances the therapeutic agent of choice in the treatment of hæmophilic patients.

In view of several developments in the management of patients with hæmophilia a group of experts has been convened to advise on likely trends in methods of treatment, possible future requirements for the treatment of the condition and the consequences for the supply of therapeutic agents, including human AHG concentrate.

The conclusions reached will be the basis for realistic planning for the future which may well include an increase in the UK production of the preferred therapeutic agent.

The production of human concentrate in the UK is at present insufficient to meet the stated needs of clinicians who care for patients requiring surgical, including dental, treatment or who have episodes of severe bleeding. The indications are that considerably more of this preparation would be used if it were available.

Product licences have very recently been granted to two firms which enable them to market foreign human AHG concentrate to hospitals and hæmophilia centres in the UK. It has come to the notice of the Department that one of the firms is already engaged in active promotion of this expensive product. The purchase of these products could result in very significant expenditure.

The Department hope to let you have a further statement soon. Meanwhile, in view of the impending availability of foreign human AHG concentrate and its very high cost you may like to let all concerned with the treatment of hæmophilia in your region know what is happening.

The long standing arrangements under which the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association prepares and distributes AHG and cryoglobulin precipitate for the treatment of hæmophilia will no doubt be well known to those concerned.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Regional Directors in the Blood Transfusion Service, and direct to Directors of Hæmophilia Centres.

Yours sincerely

I S MACDONALD

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