

Mr Macniven *8.1.*

Copy to: Dr McIntyre
Mr A J Murray

*Mr Murray
We discussed.*

*Deonson
2 Jan 87.*

COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR VOLUNTEERS USED TO TEST SNTS FACTOR VIII

You asked for an assessment of the risk to these volunteers. I attach a copy of a statement just received from Dr Cash. The following points are of particular importance:

1. On the evidence, the chance of immediate ill-effect appears extremely small.
2. The chance of virus transmission exists, despite all the precautions taken to prevent it, and cannot be convincingly estimated on present international experience, which is neither long nor wide.
3. The scheme now urgently needed is for a Type I study of Factor VIII (see page 4 of Dr Cash's assessment) which is not part of normal treatment. The other studies mentioned in the assessment differ, because they consist in observing the outcome of treatment. Dr Cash dwells upon them with justification, because they are very necessary, but they are on the same footing as the monitoring of any recently-introduced drug's effects; they differ from the anti-D scheme, where volunteers serve as antibody factories in the interest of other persons.

I had asked Dr Cash to mention why he could not overcome Dr Ludlam's reluctance by cooperating instead with Dr Forbes in Glasgow. He has not done this, but I see no need to press the point, for two reasons. First, I hear today from Dr Ludlam that if he is given a date by which a scheme is expected to be in force, he will start recruiting the volunteers at once. Secondly, there may be general agreement that the proposed scheme ought in any event to be established.



DR J M FORRESTER
7 January 1987

Room 25
SAH