SGH.007.7009

4

SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE
Headquarters Office, 17 Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh EH3 7SF

031-225 8826-9

NATIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Major-General H. C. Jeffrey, CBE, MD, FRCPE, FRC Path.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
Miss Moray Corrie, MA, FHA

20.

6th January, 1975.

To : All Chief Administrative Medical Officers,
Area Health Boards.

SUPPLY OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

1. A pilot plant for fractionation of plasma was established at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh in 1968, employing a new small volume continuous fractionation process, computer-controlled, invented by Mr. J. Watt, the Scientific Director.

2. The building of a new Protein Fractionation Centre at Ellen's Glen, Liberton was authorised in 1969 and the building is now being commissioned.

3. It is not possible to overlap production at the Royal Infirmary and Ellen's Glen as the computer has been moved to the latter and hence there will be an interim period, as the new plant is tested and brought into production, when the supply of blood products will be reduced. The length of this interim period will depend on the rapidity with which the new plant can be brought into full production; there are many novel features in its design and all must be thoroughly tested.

4. The main shortfall will be in the albuminoid fractions, PPF and salt poor albumin. The stock of immunoglobulins, normal and specific, should meet normal demands. The supply of intermediate Factor VIII should not decrease markedly from that existing at present as in the terminal stages of the operation of the pilot plant a bulk stock was prepared which is now being processed into the final product, but no extension of supplies of this factor will be possible until the early summer of 1975. There should be adequate stocks of other blood products (fibrinogen and factor IX concentrates) to meet clinical needs.

5. It would be appreciated if clinicians be made aware of this situation and restrict the use of PPF and salt poor albumin to situations where no alternative is clinically acceptable. While the change-over is in progress, there should be no extension of the use of intermediate Factor VIII. Any special problems arising should be discussed with Regional Transfusion Directors.

6. It is hoped that full production will be achieved by the middle of 1975 and that stocks can be built up so that self-sufficiency in all the blood products will be achieved by the beginning of 1976.

Copies to : Dr. Ritchie
Mr. Roberts ✓
Regional Directors
Mr. J. Watt

(National Medical Director)