

Planning of Plasma Fractionation in Scotland.

Synopsis of meetings held between the Scottish Home and Health Department and the Blood Transfusion Services of England and Scotland; February 1965- March 1973.

1. February 1965 (minute not available).

Estimated that new facilities were required in Scotland to manufacture plasma products and that these should be capable of processing up to 1000 litres of plasma per week.

2. May 1968 (RIE, Edinburgh).

Present:

IS Macdonald (SHHD), Dr Thomson (DHSS), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt (Edinburgh).

Expected that the new Scottish fractionation centre would be commissioned in June 1972 with an initial capacity of 1500 litres plasma per week but capable of being increased to 3000 litres per week.

Agreed that the Edinburgh centre should be prepared to cope with the requirements of a larger part of England than originally intended.

Agreed that requirements for labile coagulation products needed to be revised.

3. November 1968 (BPL, Elstree)

Present:

IS Macdonald (SHHD), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet, D Ellis (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt (Edinburgh).

Noted that approval in principle had been given for expenditure of £1M on the new Edinburgh fractionation centre. A building designed to operate at 1 500 litres plasma per week but equipped initially to operate at 1 000 litres per week was estimated to cost £1.2M.

Also noted that commissioning of the new Elstree extension was expected to be completed by mid-1971 at a cost of £0.6M.

4. March 1969 (RIE, Edinburgh)

Present:

IS Macdonald, DM Pendreigh (SHHD), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt, J Cash (Edinburgh).

A firm starting date for building the new Edinburgh fractionation centre had not been decided and completion of commissioning was likely to be early in 1973.

It was hoped to start building the extension at Elstree in September 1969 with commissioning being completed early in 1972.

It was noted that UK policy matters needed to be co-ordinated and it was proposed

that SHHD should contact DHSS with proposals to form a co-ordinating committee.

It was agreed that Elstree should process two-thirds of the plasma from England and Wales with the remainder being processed in Scotland.

5. June 1969 (Elstree)

Present:

D Pendreigh (SHHD), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet, D Ellis (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt (Edinburgh).

Technical discussions, including report from Watt of the preparation of factor IX concentrate via DEAE-cellulose ion exchange adsorption. The quantity of plasma required for the production of factor VIII and factor IX concentrates to be discussed with Dr Biggs.

6. November 1969 (RIE, Edinburgh)

Present:

DM Pendreigh (SHHD), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt, J Cash (Edinburgh).

The new Scottish fractionation centre had been approved at a cost of £1.5M, but it would be about one year before contractors could move on to site; it was estimated that commissioning would be completed in the latter half of 1974.

Building of the new extension at Elstree had begun in November 1969 at a cost of about £1M.

7. July 1971 (RIE, Edinburgh)

Present:

IS Macdonald, JW Galloway (SHHD), W d'A Maycock, L Vallet (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt (Edinburgh).

Tenders had been submitted for the new Edinburgh fractionation centre and building was expected to begin on schedule with commissioning beginning in January 1974.

Completion of the Elstree extension was expected by September 1971.

Agreed that discussions on central processing of factor VIII and factor IX concentrates was imperative because of major effects on production planning.

8. March 1973 (Elstree)

Present:

IS Macdonald (SHHD), L Vallet, D Ellis, ED Wesley (Elstree), RA Cumming, JG Watt (Edinburgh).

Good progress in the construction of the Edinburgh fractionation centre with commissioning expected to start in April 1974. Total cost expected to be just over

£1M. Noted that capacity for the fractionation of English plasma in Scotland did not include coagulation factors. This matter to be considered further by DHSS for the UK as a whole.

Synopsis prepared from original minutes by P R Foster, 16 July 2001.