HEAT TREATED FACTOR VIII CONCENTRATE

Rapid progress has been made following the last meeting of the Haemophilia/Transfusion Centre Directors during which it was requested that efforts be made at PFC to explore the possibility of producing an VIII concentrate with a low fibrinogen content. A new method has been developed and is currently subject to patent application. It is anticipated that by late 1983/early 1984 small amounts of the product will be released for limited clinical trials.

It is common knowledge that a heat treated Factor VIII concentrate, which should have a reduced risk of transmitting hepatitis, will be commercially available in 1983 throughout the UK. Colleagues at PFC have been working on this problem for some time and it is hoped that in 1983/84, in close association with the work referred to above, limited supplies will be available for clinical trials. The progress of this work has been slow, primarily due to a desire to minimise the deleterious effects on yield. Efforts are now being made to offset what is regarded as an inevitable yield penalty by the introduction of an additive anticoagulant programme at the NCGs. This programme will, in the fullness of time, yield a 25% increase of fresh plasma from existing donation input.