Appendix 14
Dr. Terry Walsh,
Consultant Haematologist,
The Blood Transfusion Service Board,
40, Mespil Road,
DUBLIN 4.

RE: HTLV3 ETC., AND BLOOD PRODUCTS.


Dear Terry,

Further to our conversations on Monday, 13th., I would wish to have the following organised. Mary Kearney in our Blood Bank will be on to your staff about these matters.

1. Our present stock of non HTLV3 screened cryoprecipitate to be replaced by HTLV3 screened cryoprecipitate. The stock volume need not be as large (see below).

2. Commercial Factor VIII be made available for treating our patients with classic haemophilia. This is to replace our general use of cryoprecipitate.

3. That you would enquire as to whether Factor IX concentrate (with Travenol's label) and as supplied from you is heat treated. If not, when will heat treated material be available, this with a view to having our present small stock of Factor IX concentrate, if not heat treated, replaced by heat treated material.

4. Replace our present stock of Fresh Frozen Plasma with HTLV3 screened Fresh Frozen Plasma.

5. Replace our present stock of Dried Plasma with HTLV3 screened Dried Plasma.

Implicit in part of the above is my decision that cryoprecipitate will no longer be used in this hospital for treating haemophiliacs. It will be reserved for treating patients with intravascular coagulation and fibrinolysis, various states with a low fibrinogen, and von Willebrand's disease.

Cont d.,

B02162
The only cryoprecipitate we will use will be material that has been screened for HTLV3.

All of the above arises out of our discussion on Monday and subsequent discussions that I have had with Ian Temperley. As suggested to you, I think perhaps, it is timely that you should issue some guide-lines around the country.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ernest L. Egan, M.Sc., F.R.C.P.I., F.A.C.P.
CONSULTANT HAE MATOLOGIST.
Dr. E. L. Egan,  
Haematologist,  
Regional Hospital,  
Galway.

Dear Ernest,

Thank you for your letter dated 14th January 1986 regarding HTLV III and blood products.

1. Cryoprecipitate: At the direction of the Board we ceased production of cryoprecipitate some time ago as we had accumulated large stocks of this product. To enable us to produce a batch of cryoprecipitate at this time for your requirements it would be appreciated if you could indicate the amount you would require for 1986.

2. Commercial Factor VIII can be obtained directly from the manufacturers, or, dependent on supplies and demand from Pelican House of Haemofil (heat treated) prepared from Irish donor plasma.

3. It is hoped that heat treated Factor IX prepared in Pelican House will shortly be available. Travenol Factor IX issued since January 1985 has been heat treated.

4 & 5 All donations have been treated for HTLV III antibodies since mid-October 1985. It would be helpful if you could check your stocks and let us know how much material you have that pre-dates that time.

Yours sincerely,

T. J. Walsh, M.B., M.R.C. Path.  
Consultant Haematologist.
Method of reporting? Similar to Syphilis, include propr. broth to be prepared.

Little variation of RTB.

We have only original sample.

In formal reporting, RTB should match well to confirm sample rather than refuse testing.

If any of the three screening tests (i.e., TPI, HTe, HTe-II) is positive, have all three results of RTB.

Withdrawal of products

I would recommend withdrawal of products prepared before testing.

All due work from 9:30 has been issued.

Draft letter prepared by TW.

Seminor: 50% coming from Kepi?

Report make "Not HTE-II tests".
Cryptopilitate

Galaxy was approx. 106 units (? dimensions).

Decision: to make two dinner units. Gelatine whether drying required.

Bob: Cook uses approx. 50 cat eyes, twisted.

Jane Paine:
Galaxy was 150 per bucket!

FFF:
Galaxy was 30 per bucket!

From 55 (BTSB manufacturer)

Send new chart material, what being needed.

Keep warm, keep away from heat sources, use

Conserve if necessary (tapes in box)

Are some seeds already in Hooge? Two letter
cover them.
Appendix 17
Mr. W.P. Flanagan,
Secretary,
Department of Health,
Custom House,
DUBLIN 1.

Dear Mr. Flanagan,

A meeting was held on 21 January 1986 between Dr. James Walsh and Dr. Buttimer of your Department, and the Board's Medical Consultants to discuss the current situation regarding the A.I.D.S. problem and HTLV III antibody screening in donors and blood products. It was strongly recommended by Dr. J. Walsh and agreed by the Board's Consultants that blood products such as cryoprecipitate, fresh frozen plasma and dried plasma issued prior to introduction of donor screening should now be withdrawn from hospitals who still have stocks of these materials. The hospitals concerned would expect replacement stocks of tested material. This proposal will have significant financial implications dependent on the amount of material outstanding. The Board is seeking approval for the course of action outlined and will expect financial compensation from your Department in view of the nature of the problem.

Yours sincerely,

J.V. Barry,
Chief Medical Consultant.
Appendix 18
28 January 1986

Dr J V Barry
Chief Medical Consultant
The Blood Transfusion Service Board
Polican House
P.O. Box 97
40 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Dear Dr Barry,

I refer to your letter dated 21st January 1986 regarding the above. In my view it is imperative that all blood products issued to hospitals, prior to the introduction of HTLV III anti-body testing, and still held in stock by them, should now be withdrawn. Accordingly, steps should be taken by the H.T.S.B. to do so immediately. The financial implications of this action should be taken into account by your Board in determining their 1986 overall budget.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

PW Flanagan

[Handwritten notes]
To: Medical Officer in Charge
Hospital Blood Bank.

Dear Doctor,

Enclosed please find a notice regarding the current status of blood products and HTLV III antibody testing. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the notice to the relevant personnel in your hospital.

Yours faithfully,

T.J. Walsh, M.B., M.R.C.Path.,
Consultant Haematologist.

Sent to all regular recipients of "long weekend" blood supplies arrangements in Dublin and Country.

Dr. Barry gave copy to Regional Centre and they're taking care of their remissions from Cork.

Sent copies to Limerick Regional Hospital
N. Roaddoyle, Limerick.
Limerick Maternity Hospital
St. Munchins, Limerick.
County Hosital, Ennis, Co.Cl
County " " Henagh, Co. Tipe
Re: BLOOD PRODUCTS AND HTLV-III ANTIBODY SCREENING

All blood donations collected since mid-October 1985 have been tested for antibodies to HTLV-III. It is possible that some products prepared prior to that time with a prolonged shelf-life may still be in circulation. The Blood Transfusion Service Board (BTSP) will now replace such unused products with equivalent material prepared since HTLV-III antibody screening was introduced. With regard to blood and blood products in general, the following points should be noted:

- 'Fresh' whole blood - issued within 24 hours of collection will not have been tested.
- Platelet Concentrates - issued within 24 hours of collection will not have been tested. The BTSP is actively pursuing an alternative method of platelet storage to ensure that testing can be performed on the majority of routine platelet issued.
- Fresh frozen plasma - donations collected since 21 October 1985 have been tested. Any units with a collection date prior to that should now be returned to Pelican House.
- Freeze-dried plasma - units with an expiry date prior to December 1986 have not been tested. Such units should be returned to Pelican House.
- Albumin, Normal Human Immunoglobulin for intramuscular injection and Anti-D Immunoglobulin for intravenous use:
  These derivatives, due to their method of manufacture, are believed to be free from risk of viral disease transmission.
- Fibrinogen - It will not be possible to have fibrinogen prepared from tested donations for some considerable time. Users should consider using cryoprecipitate prepared from tested donations as an alternative where practical.
- Cryoprecipitate - All cryoprecipitates issued prior to January 1986 have not been tested. Any unused units issued prior to that time should now be returned.
- Factor VIII and Factor IX Concentrates - All commercial Factor VIII now issued is heat treated. Non-heat treated material should be returned to the manufacturer. Heat treated commercial Factor IX concentrate is now available. It is hoped that heat treated Factor IX prepared by the BTSP will shortly be available.

January 1986.