Factor VIII Management Program for a Canadian Regional Ontario Haemophilia Service

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Prior to 1978, the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (CRC BTS) provided cryoprecipitate for Canadian factor VIII-deficient haemophiliacs, this being supplemented with commercially produced dried materials purchased either by individuals or treating institutions. The variety of purchasing sources and an absence of a registry of known factor VIII haemophiliacs prevented accurate estimates of ongoing utilization. Since 1978 the CRC BTS has been given responsibility for the issuing of all factor VIII materials, including cryoprecipitate and dried factor VIII from Canadian and commercial plasma sources. This and a Canadian Haemophilia Registry thus provides a unique opportunity of assessing national factor VIII requirements.

In Canada at least four separate segments of information are required, to accurately assess factor VIII utilization. They are the following.

- (1) The producer: The CRC BTS requires an accurate accounting of all factor VIII material in order to budget and provide adequate donor material. In 1979, 44, 696, 495 factor VIII units were issued for all purposes to provide care for 1,172 registered haemophiliacs.
- (2) The processor: Each blood bank must provide information concerning the use, amount administered and projected factor VIII demands. 55% of all factor VIII-deficient haemophiliacs in Canada are under the age of 20 years.
- (3) The prescriber: Each physician requires detailed knowledge of the use of factor VIII, in order to identify ongoing haemophilic arthropathy, monitor home infusions and pattern of haemorrhages.
- (4) The patient: The haemophiliacs must be aware of their current and cumulative requirements.

A factor VIII management system will be presented which provides all the information to meet the needs of these four groups using diaries, cumulative blood bank logs and issue vouchers. A computer or manual program allows simple access to such material for regional, provincial or national purposes.