



Update

Newsletter for Hospitals

February, 2000

January's Critical Blood Shortage

During the first week of January, with a deficit of more than 450 units, Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP) went on an emergency appeal for blood donations. The shortage, which became even more critical, forced BCP to start rationing blood to hospitals. Supplies were so low, in fact, that BCP had to take the extraordinary step of urging hospitals to postpone surgeries requiring large amounts of Type O blood.

The shortage is blamed on a lack of blood donations and blood drives during December, the influenza outbreak, which excluded many from donating, and the inability of BCP to import blood from other regions, due to nationwide shortages.

The emergency appeal, which garnered significant media coverage, lasted almost two weeks. During those two weeks, BCP collected 5,412 units of blood versus an average collection of 3,700 units - an increase of almost 50 percent.

As of the week of January 10th, BCP has been able to resume fulfilling hospital orders. BCP would like to thank all our hospitals for their patience and help during this crisis.

Legislative Update

On December 15th, the California Senate Health and Human Services Committee held a hearing titled, "The Crisis in California's Blood Supply." The Committee, chaired by Senator Martha Escutia, heard reports and testimony from several individuals and groups, including blood banks, physicians, insurance organizations and hospitals regarding the issue of reimbursement for the cost of blood production.

Dr. Nora Hirschler attended the hearing on behalf of BCP and to show support for Blood Centers of the California - the organization that is spearheading the effort to make reimbursements commensurate with costs of blood banking. Fourteen out of the 18 major blood banks in California anticipate reductions in operations or closure due to decreasing operational funds. Since 1997, California's blood centers have lost \$33 million in earnings. These losses are partially a result of Medi-Cal and private insurers' reimbursements, which are lower than the blood centers' cost of production.

The Committee is exploring the issue and considering working with Congress to increase Medicaid and Medicare funding to account for what blood centers argue is an insufficient blood reimbursement. We will keep you abreast of any developments regarding this issue.



Irwin Memorial
Blood Centers



PENINSULA
BLOOD BANK

BioCare Blood Derivatives Update:

Blood Centers of the Pacific has the following items in inventory for immediate distribution. Please call Don Gibleski at 415-225-7680 for pricing information.

IMMUNE GLOBULINS FACTOR CONCENTRATES (VARIOUS VENDORS)

Rh Immune Globulin	Factor VIII
Rh Immune Globulin (micro)	Factor IX
Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (Adult and Pediatric doses)	
Win Rho	
Intravenous Immune Globulins (IVIG) 6 Gm. and 10 Gm.	

SERUM ALBUMINS

Normal Serum Albumin 5% 250 ml.
Normal Serum Albumin 5% 500 ml.
Normal Serum Albumin 25% 50 ml.
Normal Serum Albumin 25% 100 ml.

FIBRIN SEALANTS

Tisseel 2.0 ml.
Tisseel 5.0 ml.

Dr. Andrew Heaton Moves to Chiron

Dr. Andrew Heaton, former President and CEO of Blood Centers of the Pacific, has stepped down from his post as Blood Systems' (BSI) Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Heaton has been named Vice President and Chief of Operations of Chiron Corporation's blood testing arm. Chiron manufactures one of the NAT tests under evaluation to help enhance the safety of the blood supply.

Dr. Heaton served as BCP's President and CEO for five years. He implemented the successful merger of Irwin Memorial Blood Centers and Peninsula Blood Bank and BCP's affiliation with BSI.

We thank Dr. Heaton for all his hard work at BCP and BSI, and wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

Technical Advisory Committee meetings:

Date:	Time:	Location
March 14, 2000	2:00 PM	Fairfield
March 15, 2000	8:30 AM	San Francisco
June 13, 2000	2:00 PM	Fairfield
June 14, 2000	8:30 AM	San Francisco
Sept 12, 2000	2:00 PM	Fairfield
Sept 13, 2000	8:30 AM	San Francisco
Dec 12, 2000	2:00 PM	Fairfield
Dec 13, 2000	8:30 AM	San Francisco

Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee meetings:

Date:	Time:	Location
Feb 1, 2000	5:00 PM	San Francisco
May 2, 2000	5:00 PM	San Francisco
August 1, 2000	5:00 PM	San Francisco
Dec 5, 2000	5:00 PM	San Francisco

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