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Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada

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CHARMS IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES:

As Khursh Ahmed travels around the country installing the CHARMS software, he is relaying back to the AHDCDC Office his perception of each clinic's enthusiasm and concerns for this program. It is already apparent that a couple of issues should be addressed at this early stage in the implementation process.

Khursh has conveyed his thanks to everyone he has met so far on his CHARMS travels and has indicated that he is very impressed by the commitment shown by all the Hemophilia Clinic staff that he has encountered. This should bode well for the success of CHARMS!

The two issues I wished to address, in light of Khursh's feedback, concern CHARMS entry priorities and CHARMS security.

1. Data Entry Priorities

- As those of you who have received the program will know, the amount of data that can be entered into CHARMS is enormous. However, given that our resources are limited, we suggest that the following data input priorities be considered.
- All active patients be entered into the Directory.
- Data for hepatitis and HIV serology be entered.
- The Blood product tracking aspects of the program be initiated.

While some clinics may wish to enter past data and other more extensive laboratory results, this may not be a priority and may more effectively be achieved either through the conversion of an existing database (in consultation with Cecelia Stiles via Andrea Vogel) or through the employment of a temporary staff person, employed specifically to enter this information.

At this point in time, we don't know precisely what information the CBS will require from us. They have been made aware of CHARMS and we are presuming that they will want similar information to that collected by the CBA.

2. CHARMS Security

The issue of the confidential nature of CHARMS information has, quite rightly, been raised by several people. For the present, our suggestions are as follows.

Where possible -

- The CHARMS computer should not be connected to a local network or the NET.

- The CHARMS computer should be located in a room that can be locked and where there is restricted access.
- The CHARMS backup tape should also be secured.
- Access to the CHARMS password should obviously be restricted.

We appreciate that local circumstances will determine the ease or difficulty with which these recommendations can be followed but we will attempt to respond to individual clinic questions about these issues over the coming months.