

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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HSS(MD) 24/2007

To:
HSS Board Chief Executives
HSC Trust Chief Executives
HSC Trust Medical Directors (for cascade to hospital doctors)
HSC Trust Directors of Nursing
HSS Board Directors of Nursing
Activated Factor VIIa Working Group

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 24/2007
Date: 17 August 2007

Dear Colleague

**RE: REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR OFF-LICENCE USE OF RECOMBINANT FACTOR VIIa
(EPTACOG-ALFA; *NOVOSEVEN*®) IN ACQUIRED COAGULOPATHY**

Following discussion re Recombinant Factor VIIa the Northern Ireland Advisory Committee on Blood Safety convened an expert Working Group in 2006 to draw up regional guidelines for the off-licence use of Recombinant Factor VIIa in acquired coagulopathy.

The Regional Medical Services Consortium (RMSC) endorsed the regional guidelines in June 2007. A letter was subsequently sent from Health and Social Services Boards to their respective Trusts stating that the four Boards, through RMSC, have agreed to consolidate funding for limited use of this product, subject to Trusts' participation in a regional audit.

It has been agreed that Trusts should hold a small amount of stock to be available at short notice for patients meeting the clinical criteria. As the drug has a limited shelf-life, it is important that someone is nominated to take responsibility for maintaining the stock and ensuring it is within expiry dates. Stock can be returned to Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service which has a large turnover of this product, ensuring minimal wastage.

The regional guidelines, attached, are to be implemented in all Trusts. Trusts will be reimbursed only if the necessary pre-administration and post-administration audit forms have been completed then returned to Nicola Porter (Facilitator, Regional Multi-Professional Audit Group nicola.porter@dhsspsni.gov.uk) and are found to be in accordance with the regional guidelines by a multi-professional audit group.

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