

Guillain Barre Syndrome Vaccines From Brazil

The Embassy of Brazil has donated a number of vaccines to the Government of Grenada. A brief ceremony was held at the office of the Chief Medical Officer in the Botanical Gardens to hand over the items.

A total of one hundred and fifty phials of human haemoglobin vaccines valued at seventy-seven thousand US dollars changed hands from the government and people of Brazil to the Ministry of Health; a gift health authority dubbed as significant.

The Brazilian Ambassador to Grenada His Excellency Zenik Krawetschuk presented the vaccines for treating patients with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS). Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health Pauline Peters thanked the diplomat for "the act of kindness shown to Grenada by his government and people".

She said that she is certain that the donation would be of great benefit to Grenadians noting that such a humane gesture deepens the relationship between both countries' ministries of health and governments.

Ambassador Krawetschuk said that the medication is very effective, having been used to treat patients in Brazil. He said presently, they are in the process of testing new vaccines that would aid in treating the three associated diseases: Zika, Dengue and Chick V. He hopes that after the tests are conducted they will get great reviews.

The ambassador said that one of the main difficulties they encountered was in the area of transporting the medication from Brazil to Grenada since it has to be maintained within a special temperature range, from 3-8 degrees centigrade. He noted that the



airline also had some difficulties with the necessary temperature needed. However, the Government of Grenada and PAHO overcame the initial difficulties.

According to Chief Medical Officer, George Mitchell, Guillain-Barre

Syndrome does not occur solely in the case Zika infection but there are other types of infections that can lead to persons being affected. He said it is not known when one of these viruses would show up and someone would be affected.

He emphasised the importance of the gift of the vaccines since treating one patient amounts to thousands of dollars and therefore the vaccine is strategic and will give satisfaction to physicians treating these patients". "Having to wait on the ministry to source the medication from somewhere is a matter of life and death," he noted. Dr Mitchell stated that the vaccines received would be stored under appropriate conditions and would be easily accessible at no cost to patients.