

IN CONFIDENCE

MINUTES OF THE SECOND SPECIAL MEETING OF REGIONAL TRANSFUSION DIRECTORS HELD
IN ROOM 1114, EUSTON TOWER ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1973 COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM.

PRESENT:

Dr W d'A Maycock

- Chairman

Dr S Murray

Dr L A D Tovey

Dr C C Bowley

Dr J Darnborough

Dr T D Davies (Deputy)

Dr W J Jenkins

Dr K Ll. Rogers

Dr J Grant

Dr G H Tovey

Dr B Bevan (Deputy)

Dr G W G Bird

Dr F Stratton

Dr D Lehane

Dr D S Smith

- Regional Transfusion Directors

Dr K L G Goldsmith

- Blood Group Reference Laboratory

Dr S L Waiter

Mr W A Walters

Mr R H Hanson

Mr R E Pearson

Mrs H E Crook

- Department of Health & Social
Security

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE .

None were received.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 1973.

Dr Jenkins felt that more emphasis should have been made in item 6 of the Minutes on the resolution passed at the previous meeting that Factor VIII should be distributed through the Regional Transfusion Centres. The Chairman said he thought the minute as recorded made the view of the RTDs clear.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. AMOUNT OF PLASMA REQUIRED RTD(73)24. The Chairman introduced paper RTD(73)24 which had been produced at the request of the first meeting in order to correlate the total donations and the number of donations in each region from which plasma would have to be separated in order to provide the amount of antihaemophilic globulin estimated by Dr Biggs to be necessary.

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b. AVAILABILITY OF PLASTIC BAGS.

Mr Pearson, Supply Division, informed the meeting that the supply position was unchanged since the first meeting. RTDs were asked to submit estimates of their requirements of pigtail and double bags, necessary to collect the plasma required for the preparation of antihaemophilic globulin, to Supply Division who would endeavour to arrange for their needs to be met.

The cost of providing increased numbers of plastic bags was discussed and Directors asked if any help would be forthcoming from the Department.

Mr Walters said he would look into the matter.

c. STAFF.

Estimates of additional staff likely to be needed has been submitted by RTCs Cambridge, Brentwood, Bristol, Cardiff and Wessex. The increases were modest and RTDs did not consider there would be difficulty in recruiting the extra staff needed. There was great doubt, however, about getting staff to work in the evenings to separate plasma, at the present overtime rates.

Mr Walters would report the results of discussion with P Division at the next meeting.

d. EQUIPMENT AND ACCOMMODATION

Dr Maycock reported that he had received estimates of equipment and its probable cost from the centres listed in para.3(c). Dr Stratton had reported that lack of accommodation at Manchester would prevent participation of the RTC and the Regional Subcentre for possibly 18 months to 2 years.

Dr Maycock asked the remaining regions to submit information about staff, equipment and accommodation as soon as possible.

e. TRANSPORT

Various means of transporting the frozen plasma from the Centres to Blood Products Laboratory were discussed. Dr Stratton reported that he was testing a large aluminium and plywood container insulated with 5 inches of

polyurethane which could be carried in an ordinary vehicle. This device would depend upon its insulating properties although it might prove necessary to use some solid carbon dioxide within this insulated container. He undertook to keep Dr Maycock informed of the progress of experiments.

Dr Jenkins was discussing with Edwards High Vacuum the use of liquid nitrogen to provide the required subzero temperature in an insulated chamber which would hold about 30 5.0L bags and could be carried in a 5 cwt. van.

Dr Murray had already obtained and was using a refrigerated vehicle which operated at - 20°C. It was agreed that the question of provision of vehicles should be considered within the Department.

4. TECHNIQUE OF BLOOD COLLECTION

A draft paper (RTD(73)27) prepared by Blood Products Laboratory was tabled for comments at a later date.

5. FUNCTIONS OF HAEMOPHILIA CENTRES

A general discussion on haemophilia centres and their function was held. It was felt that the Department should consider whether the criteria used to designate centres need review and stricter definition. Existing centres and laboratories seeking designation should be investigated to ensure that they were able to provide a comprehensive 24 hour service, which should include reliable methods of assay, facilities for diagnosis and treatment and counselling.

The Chairman thought that it was generally agreed that standardisation of laboratory diagnostic procedures was most desirable. The advantages of home treatment were discussed. It was proposed that a meeting should be arranged between Dr Biggs, the Directors of Haemophilia Centres and Regional Transfusion Directors at which mutual problems could be discussed. Dr Maycock undertook to talk to Dr Biggs.

o. THE STORAGE OF CONCENTRATED RED CELLS

The "life" of concentrated red cells was briefly discussed, particularly in relation to the equipment used for their preparation. If pig-tail bags could be used safely, considerable savings would be effected. Dr Jenkins agreed to prepare and circulate a paper describing the experience at Brentwood of the use of pig-tail bags to prepare plasma and concentrated red cells. It was agreed that this paper would be discussed at the next special meeting.

/. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Dr Maycock will notify members of the date and venue of the next meeting.