

NOTE OF MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP OF REGIONAL TRANSFUSION DIRECTORS HELDON WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL TRANSFUSIONCENTRES OF MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRENDS WORKING PARTY

PRESENT: Dr Tovey (Chair)  
Dr Bird  
Dr Gunson  
Dr Jenkins  
Dr Lane  
Dr Waiter  
Mr Dutton

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1. Dr Tovey opened the meeting by explaining that he had been in touch with the Department about the status of the Regional Groups of Directors and he had been advised that for the time being they should be regarded as adhoc groups. He then invited Dr Lane to outline his paper "Implementation of the Working Party Report on Trends in the Demand for Blood Products".
2. Dr Lane doubted whether in setting their targets for factor VIII and albumin production the Trends Working Party had anticipated the difficulty Regions would meet in producing the necessary volumes of fresh plasma. He stressed that it was important to plan a valid production programme to include Regions.
3. The development of the NBTS radioimmunoassay for the detection of hepatitis B surface antigen at BPL and associated laboratories, was progressing satisfactorily but it was agreed that its general adoption must await a recommendation from the Advisory Group on testing for HBsAg and its antibody. Dr Lane's intention was however to test all single donation packs using the BPL RIA even though they had been tested in the RTCs. He anticipated that the introduction of the single donation pack would itself enable Centres to step up plasma production. The 2nd prototype single donation pack would be available shortly.
4. The Group then considered justification for continuing the present arrangements for distributing blood products made at BPL, whereby the Director endeavoured to make supplies available to Regions in proportion to their needs (e.g. factor VIII by the number of haemophiliacs treated and irrespective of the amount of plasma which the Region sent to BPL). The justification for this policy at the outset, and especially where there was no commercially available alternative, was acknowledged but all members consider that the policy was now a great disincentive to Regions to produce more plasma and be changed. It was agreed that all the Regional Groups of Directors should

be told about the proposal to issue BPL products in future on the basis of the amount of plasma which the Region sent to BPL and decision taken on how and when Regions should be told about the change.

5. After further discussion about the details of arranging the distribution of blood products proportionally to the amount of plasma which Regions sent to BPL it was agreed:-

1. Directors would make an assessment of their Regions' future requirements of blood products based on Dr <sup>Lane's</sup> Jones' interpretation of the Trends Working Party Report and what it would mean for RTCs.
2. Directors would consider how and when to put the ideas they had discussed to Regional Administrators and Regional Treasurers.
3. BPL would gear up (so far as resources allowed) to process the extra plasma which it was anticipated pro-rata distribution of finished products would generate, as soon as it was known that the arrangements were generally accepted by Directors.
4. Dr Lane would attend the meetings which would be arranged of the Regional Groups of Directors.
5. Members would meet again on 26 September 1979 at 10.30 a.m.