THE BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDS IN HAEMATOLOGY

BLOOD TRANSFUSION TASK FORCE

Minutes of the meeting held at Blackwell Scientific Publications Limited, 25 John Street, London on Wednesday 13 July 1994 at 11 am.

Present:
Dr D Voak (in the chair)
Dr R Finney
Dr P R Kelsey
Dr J Chapman
Dr A Rejman
Dr S Knowles
Dr R Mitchell
Mr P Bowell (for BT94/18)
Dr L Williamson (for BT94/19)
Dr F G Williams (for BT94/17)

Apologies:
Dr M Murphy
Mr P Phillips
Dr K Forman
Dr K J Wood

BT 94/14 Apologies were received from Dr J K Wood, Dr K Forman, Mr P Phillips and Dr M Murphy. Dr A Napier recently elected Chairman of this Task Force was unable to attend due to illness and Dr D Voak therefore remained in the Chair for this meeting.

BT 94/15 Minutes of the meeting on 11.03.94 were accepted.

BT 94/16 a) An erratum addressing the error in the published Neonatal Transfusion guidelines will be submitted to Transfusion Medicine for publication.

ACTION : PRK

b) Guidelines for Evaluation and Validation of New Techniques. This guideline has previously been passed by the Task Force. Comments and minor amendments from ISBT and BCSH are to be incorporated. The revised document to be submitted to BCSH and then for publication.

ACTION : DV

BT 94/17 Consent for Transfusion. The Task Force discussed the proposal at length. Written comments from members of the profession were considered. The following conclusions were reached;

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1 The risks associated with blood transfusion were not of such magnitude that there should be a legal requirement for informed consent to transfusion.

2 There is a clear ethical duty upon doctors to inform patient what is to be done to them and this includes blood transfusion. The problem of transfusion given to patients under anaesthesia for elective conditions without their knowledge was particularly highlighted.

3 The information leaflet was considered to be valuable and should be made available to patients upon request. The members of the Task Force felt that this was not an area where they could publish a guideline. It was felt that the information leaflet could be incorporated in to the Transfusion Handbook where it would provide a valuable data source for junior doctors. The question of incorporating consent for transfusion in to the consent for operation in some way was felt to be a problem which this Task Force could not address and which referred to good medical practice in surgical specialties which should be addressed through either the respective Royal Colleges or perhaps by the Department of Health. The Task Force concluded that the information data should be incorporated in to the Transfusion Handbook but that no further action could be taken by this group in regard to the question of consent for transfusion.

ACTION : FGW & PRK

BT 94/18 Guidelines for blood grouping and antibody testing during pregnancy. A revised version was considered. Minor corrections were made during discussion and a final version of the guideline to be produced by RM and circulated to Task Force members and to the BCSH thence for publication.

ACTION : RM & PRK

BT 94/19 Guidelines on gamma irradiation of blood components for the prevention of transfusion associated graft versus host disease.

1 A proforma for a reporting system for graft versus host disease and

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other serious adverse consequence of transfusion was produced. It was felt that this proforma should include potentially serious events such as A B O incompatible blood transfusions even where reaction does not occur. It was agreed that this form should be the responsibility of the NBA but should be incorporated in to the present document in regard to the mechanism for reporting events. Members are invited to send written comments about this form to Dr Lorna Williamson. Modified version of the form to be considered at next meeting.

2 The irradiation document was considered in detail. Particular concern was highlighted regarding the use of radio-sensitive labels and it was felt that the labelling of each unit within a batch was both un-necessary and prohibitively expensive. Dr Williamson agreed to addresss this question. Minor revisions only were recommended and a revised (hopefully final) draft should be available for the next meeting.

3 The format of the guideline was discussed and it was agreed to approach the BSH to investigate whether the summary of the guide-lines could be produced in the form of a card which could be circulated to members.

ACTION : PRK

BT 94/20 Products pending progress;

a) Leucocyte depleted blood products. Dr M Murphy was not available to give a progress report however it was reported that this guideline is progressing and a first draft should be expected in the Autumn. It was noted however that a large study from the United States should be producing important data shortly and final publication of this guideline may need to await this information.

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b) Compatibility testing in hospital. Dr Chapman reported that a meeting of the working group would take place in October and a draft should follow shortly after.

c) IVIg use of. Dr Kelsey reported communication with Dr Pen Lee Yap regarding the production of a guideline for the use of IVIg. The IVIg preparations are licensed products. It would be inappropriate for a guideline to suggest uses outside the product license. It was therefore decided that this project should be dropped. Dr Yap to be invited to give his reasons in writing. BCSH to be formally notified.

ACTION : PRK

BT 94/21 Members agreed to BBTS representation on the Task Force.

BT 94/22 A draft of guidelines for Autologous Transfusion, part two, relating to acute normovolaemic haemo-dilution was tabled under this heading. No comments from Task Force members were made at this time and members are asked to send comments in writing to Dr Jack Gillon.

BT 94/23 The next meeting to be held in early October. Dates to be announced.