

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WORKING PARTY ON THE TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIACS

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 19th May 1980 at 10.00 a.m.  
at the offices of the Authority

PRESENT: Dr. N.K. Shinton (Chairman)  
Dr. W.S.A. Allan  
Dr. G.W.G. Bird  
Dr. B.J. Boughton  
Dr. R.M. Ibbotson  
Dr. R. Payne  
Dr. M. O'Shea  
Professor J. Stuart

Mr. R.J. Edwards attended by invitation

Mr. I.B. Monk  
Mrs. J. Goodwin (in attendance)

Membership of the Working Party

80/1

On behalf of the members the Chairman welcomed to the membership of the Working Party Dr. B.J. Boughton, Senior Lecturer in Haematology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Apologies

80/2

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Jillian Mann and Dr. E.G. Rees.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

80/3

The minutes of the last meeting of the Working Party held on 3rd December 1979 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:-

Minute No 79/16, paragraph 4, line 5, amend "two-year" to read "one-year".

Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

80/4

(i) Preparation of packs for home therapy  
(Previous Minute No. 79/14)

Professor Stuart reported that the Blood Products Laboratory was undergoing reorganisation at the present time and that while Dr. Lane, the Director of BPL was aware of the request for packs for home therapy treatment it was anticipated that these packs would not be available until after the reorganisation. It was agreed to keep this matter under review.

(ii) Appointment of Haemophilia Sister  
(Previous Minute No. 79/14)

Professor Stuart said that there had been no further developments regarding the appointment of a Regional Nursing Co-ordinator at the Regional Haemophilia Centre. He asked that if any further information was needed to support this request, perhaps Dr. Stewart would contact him and he would be pleased to provide further supporting information for the RTO to consider funding this post out of revenue consequences of Clinical Developments.

Annual Returns of Haemophilia Directors

80/5

The West Midlands Haemophilia Centre Statistics 1979 (Jan-Dec) were considered in detail. (Enclosure 1 in minute file)

He said that the average dose of Factor VIII per patient per annum was 22,905 units per patient per annum for the Queen Elizabeth and 23,515 units for Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital which compared with the average usage per patient in the United Kingdom in 1978 of 22,000 units.

The main increase could be seen to be the increase in the amount of Commercial Factor VIII used in 1978 - 1,249,660 units to 1,931,193 units in 1979. The ratio of BPL to Commercial Factor VIII at Coventry was 2.2 whereas in the Central District for 1 bottle of BPL, 3 bottles of Commercial Factor VIII were supplied at a ratio of 0.3. This was a consequence of the Coventry policy of supplying BPL for Home Therapy. However the production problems at the BPL were liable to alter the ratio for any centre in the immediate future.

Professor Stuart said that the increased usage of Commercial Factor VIII by the Central District had resulted in an overspending of £23,000. Dr. Bird undertook to look into the problem of allocation. Dr. Shinton said that he would consult the Regional Medical Officer about the anomaly of funding.

Availability of Cryoprecipitate and Freeze Dried Factor VIII Concentrate  
(Previous Minute No. 79/16)

80/6

Dr. Bird said that the Blood Products Laboratory were installing new equipment at the present time and no NHS Factor VIII had been made since April, 1980. It had become necessary therefore to purchase more Commercial Factor VIII and the problem of the increased cost to the Blood Transfusion Service had been referred to the Regional Treasurer's Department. It was not known when the production of BPL Factor VIII would recommence. He said that Commercial firms had been asked to advance the BTS two months supply of Factor VIII and the problem of funding this additional cost was under discussion.

Dr. Bird went on to say that the pro rata distribution of NHS Factor VIII by the BPL had been accepted centrally but those RHAs not contributing sufficient fresh frozen plasma to the 'pool' were being given time to catch up with other Regions. This Region would continue to supply plasma to the BPL. It was being stock-piled until it could be used but it was understood that some of the plasma may be transferred to industry for the manufacture of Factor VIII concentrate.

A summary showing the availability of cryoprecipitate and freeze dried Factor VIII concentrate from October 1979 - March 1980 (Enclosure 2 in minute file) and a summary for the months March - September 1979 were considered (Enclosure 3 in minute file).

Dr. O'Shea said that the use of Factor VIII was constant at 3½ million units during the past four years. The use of commercial concentrate had increased from 21% to 53% during the same four year period, and by a factor of 50% between 1978-79. The use of cryoprecipitate had decreased from 2,020,480 units in 1976 to 443,400 units in 1979, and this indicated that there had been a move from using cryoprecipitate to using Commercial Factor VIII which involved an increased cost to the Region. This seemed to be an apparent change of policy to purchase commercial Factor VIII and was costing in excess of £100,000 per year, yet no positive decision to change to commercial supplies had actually been made.

Dr. O'Shea said that in 1976 Dr. Bird had stated that cryoprecipitate production was 40,000 packs per year.



Dr. O'Shea said that he wished to continue using cryoprecipitate at Shrewsbury particularly while BPL Factor VIII was not being produced, but he had been unable to obtain the requested amounts of cryoprecipitate from the BTS. He asked if the production of cryoprecipitate could be increased at the BTS while NHS Factor VIII was unavailable to offset the increased charge on Salop's budget which would arise from the need to purchase more Commercial Factor VIII.

Dr. Bird replied that it was not possible to manufacture more cryoprecipitate at the BTS because the plasma was needed to send to BPL. Professor Stuart made the point that many Directors of Haemophilia Centres would not be willing to give patients cryoprecipitate after using a freeze dried preparation because of hypersensitivity reactions, and inconvenience in handling it for home therapy treatment. The other members agreed that reversion to using cryoprecipitate would be a retrograde step but the financial implications were recognised.

It was generally agreed that while there had been no official policy statement from the Working Party on the production of cryoprecipitate, Dr. Bird should be encouraged to continue to send supplies of plasma to the BPL for the manufacture of NHS Factor VIII.

Dr. Bird undertook to arrange for supplies of cryoprecipitate to be provided for the haematologists in Shrewsbury while BPL Factor VIII was unavailable.

It was agreed that if BPL Factor VIII was still out of production at the time of the next meeting the Working Party, Dr. O'Shea's suggestion should be reconsidered.

The Chairman undertook to discuss with the Regional Medical Officer the whole question of funding.

Regional Contract for the purchase of Commercial Factor VIII  
(Previous Minute No. 79/16)

80/7

(Mr. R.J. Edwards, Deputy Regional Supplies Officer attended the meeting for the discussion of this item).

Mr. Edwards explained that the Regional Contract for the purchase of commercial Factor VIII had been awarded to Armour Ltd for a one year period expiring on 31st July 1980 at a cost of 9.25p per unit. This had been a good price at that time. However Mr. Edwards was asked to invite tenders for a one year contract, based on supplying 2.5 million units of Commercial Factor VIII. The companies should be asked to give a fixed price for 12 months, together with details of the units per bottle they were able to supply, and to provide one home therapy pack for inspection.

It was agreed that a Sub-Group meeting should be held between the Chairman Professor Stuart, Dr. Bird and Mr. Edwards on 20th June, 1980 at 10.30 a.m. at the Blood Transfusion Centre. The Chairman would report on his discussions with Dr. McGregor regarding funding problems and recommendations should be made regarding a future Regional Contract.

At Professor Stuart's request Dr. Bird undertook to write to the Chairman of the Central Birmingham District Medical Executive Committee, with a copy to this Working Party, giving details of the amount of Commercial Factor VIII supplied to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Blood Transfusion Service Advisory Committee  
(Previous Minute No. 79/17)

80/8

The minutes of the meeting of the Blood Transfusion Service Advisory Committee held on 14th January, 1980, were received. (Enclosure 4 in minute file).

Time and Date of Next Meeting

80/9

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Party should be held on Monday 8th December, 1980 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.

JEG/MAS  
2/6/80