

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

National Blood Transfusion Service Co-ordinating Committee

Minutes of Meeting of 24 January 1989

Members:	Mr G Hart (Chairman)	Department of Health
	Mr P Gregory	HSP Division Welsh Office
	Dr H H Gunson	National Director - NBTS Directorate
	Dr R J Moore	Deputy National Director
		NBTS Directorate
	Mr R M Nicholls	RGM Oxford RHA
	Dr J M O'Brien	RMO East Anglian RHA
	Mr R Wing	Chairman - CBLA
	Mr A A Wilson	Asst. General Manager for
		Finance and Information
		South Western RHA
Observers:	Dr E Harris	DCME - Department of Health
	Mr A M Harris	HS1 - Department of Health
Secretariat:	Dr H Pickles	Med SEB - Department of Health
	Mr J Canavan	HS1 - Department of Health
	Mr M Arthur	HS1 - Department of Health

Introductions/Apologies for absence

1. The Chairman welcomed members to their important work on the new committee. Mr Colin Walker had sent apologies due to illness and was wished a speedy recovery.

Co-ordinating Committee Remit (NBTS 89/2)

2. The remit of the committee was agreed as set out in the paper.

Cross Accounting for plasma and blood products (NBTS 89/3)

3. Mr Harris introduced the paper. He noted that the proposals had in some respects been overtaken by those in NBTS 89/4.

4. The cross accounting arrangement would provide a price signal to RTCs to produce plasma and provide incentives for BPL to achieve production efficiencies and economies. Members agreed the importance of bringing the arrangements into operation; any necessary refinements could then be made in the light of experience. The date for implementation was confirmed as 1 April 1989.

Directorate proposals for fixing plasma and product prices and on the principles of distribution of BPL running costs (NBTS 89/4)

5. Dr Moore elaborated on the proposals in the Directorate's Paper. He confirmed that Regions would receive a 7.5% discount on the BPL prices listed in Appendix 2 of the paper.

6. Since the Paper was written, the Directorate had started work on various models for distributing BPLs running costs. Mr Gregory received confirmation that Wales were included. The Directorate had asked RTCs for their projections of usage in 1989/90. Once these were available the implications of the various distribution criteria would be examined.

7. In considering the distribution of CBLA revenue to Regions, members sought proposals which were broadly neutral in cost terms. Dr Moore agreed to write a Paper with proposals which met these criteria and agreed it with RTs. Mr Wilson agreed to help ensure the proposals would be acceptable to his colleagues.

8. Dr Pickles suggested that charges might prompt Regions to look at their Factor VIII prescribing practices since some were using 3 times as much product for no apparent better care. The Chairman asked Dr Harris to give consideration to the possible need for broad clinical advice for Haemophilia Directors.

9. Members agreed that Anti-D and Anti-Tetanus immunoglobulin could be charged regionally. All other immunoglobulins distributed through the PHLS network would be free of charge since PHLS could not undertake invoicing. However the CBLA would consider alternative distribution arrangements for 1990/91 so that these products could be brought within the charging system.

10. Mr Nicholls was concerned that RTCs would resist the embargo on production of their own reagents. Dr Gunson considered that the legislation on product liability would be decisive since RHAs would not want to be exposed by the stricter liability imposed should a product injure patients.

Director's Tour D'Horizon and outline work programme (NBTS 89/5)

12. Dr Gunson introduced this paper and noted that the Regional Transfusion Directors had now disbanded their national Committee. Very little management information was yet available to the Directorate but since November they had collected daily blood stocks. They had been able to re-distribute blood to meet demand and in particular demands arising from recent major accidents. Members agreed this was a matter for congratulation. Dr Gunson said that some Regions thought that transfers of blood arranged by the Directorate should attract a handling charge. Bilateral contracts for blood supplies had already been agreed between some Regions. It was agreed the question of a handling charge should be considered when figures for blood transfers between Regions were available to the Directorate for a reasonable period.

12. Dr Gunson said that a schedule for plasma supply had been agreed for the next five years. The target for 89/90 was to achieve 8.8 "tons per million of population" and to explore potential above that before budgets were set for 1990/91. This would need to be by wider adoption of plasmapheresis and the Directorate were exploring ways of reducing the cost. Mr Hart would write to RTCs below the target, about increasing their supplies to CBLA.

13. Members were concerned to hear of poor management arrangements for quality control and assurance in BTCs which had resulted in wasteful recent losses of product at BPL. This should be a priority task for the

Directorate. Meanwhile the Chairman wished any incident requiring immediate attention to be brought to the attention of the RGM, RMO and himself. The accountability arrangements for RTCs varied between Regions and it was unclear how widely incidents at an RTC would be known within the Region. Mr Nicholls was asked to consider how RTCs should be tied in with the Regional management structure and give his views at the next meeting. Dr Harris would consider increasing the role of the Medicines Inspectorate if necessary.

Directorate Budget (NBTS 89/6)

14. The Directorate reported that the budget allocated was adequate. Dr Gunson said that with investment in a management information system, savings could be anticipated at RTCs.

RGM Letter - Oral item

15. The Chairman said that once the cross charging proposals were finalised he would write to RGMs giving full details of the new management and accounting arrangements (copying to WO) plasma targets would be included.

Any Other Business

16. Mr Gregory asked how widely Committee papers would be circulated for advice. It was agreed that papers could generally be circulated among colleagues to help formulate a view. If authors wished to have papers restricted to members this should be made clear when the papers are circulated.

Date of next meeting

17. The next meeting will be at 10.30 am on 4 July 1989 in Room 85 Hannibal House.