

GEB 14

NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Report to Mr. Graham Hart - 5th December 1988

1. Movement of Blood between RTC's in an Emergency

- 1.1 During October the minimum requirements for blood supply was determined at each RTC.
- 1.2 From 1st November 1988 the daily stock at each RTC has been communicated to the Directorate by FAX or by telephone. RTC's have been asked not to communicate shortages of blood to the media without first telephoning the National Director.
- 1.3 The system operating at present is manual, time-consuming and cumbersome. A computer programme is currently being written and should be implemented in January 1989.
- 1.4 The usefulness of the system has been proved on two occasions. A liver transplant for a patient in Leeds with an unusual blood group was enabled by transfer of blood from N. London and Newcastle RTC's and a short term shortage of O Rh positive blood at Southampton was relieved by transfer of blood from Bristol RTC.

2. Management Committee of the NBTS

- 2.1 A Management Committee has been constituted with terms of reference attached (NMC 2/88).
- 2.2 Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Dr. H.H. Gunson, National Director
Dr. R.J. Moore, Deputy National Director
Dr. Marcela Contreras, Chairman, Eastern Division
Dr. F. Ala, Chairman, Western Division
Dr. D. Lee, Chairman, Northern Division
Dr. W. Wagstaff, Chairman, RTD Committee
Dr. Jean Harrison, Chairman, London RTC's
Dr. I.D. Fraser
- 2.3 The Management Committee held its first meeting on Thursday 1st December 1988.

3. Matters discussed by the Management Committee

3.1 Communications:

- (i) Methods for communications between the National and Deputy National Director and senior staff at RTC's was resolved.
- (ii) Nominations for a CBLA/NBTS liaison committee were made. This Committee will be chaired by the National Director and will comprise Dr. R.J. Moore and the Chairmen of the three Divisions of the NBTS. The CBLA will be invited to nominate the Chief Executive, the Financial Controller and the Directors of the two laboratories.

- (iii) The first meeting should be held in January 1989.

3.2 New Clinical Grading Structure for Nursing Staff

- (i) The National Director has prepared recommendations on the grading of staff in the NBTS (summary attached, NMC 3/88) to clarify proposals put forward by an RTD Working Party.
- (ii) This document has the support of RTC's although some would prefer a more generous grading for donor attendants and have argued that once they are trained they can undertake their duties with minimal supervision and it is difficult in some parts of the Country to recruit staff.

To place donor attendants on grade B, would have a knock-on effect on the grades for Team Leaders.

- (iii) Industrial action is being taken by N.U.P.E. members at Liverpool BTS and by N.U.P.E. and C.O.H.S.E. members at Manchester BTS. This is causing donors to be turned away.

3.3 Regrading of MLSO's

- (i) The new regrading structure for MLSO's is likely to cause problems in implementation at RTC's for a number of reasons.
- (ii) Some months ago a new structure for scientific staff in RTC's was sent to the Department of Health. Implementation of this structure will require the removal of these staff from Whitley Council regulations with all the difficulties that this entails.
- (iii) A Working Group was set-up by the Management Committee to urgently consider the proposals for regrading MLSO's. The Chairman is Dr. I.D. Fraser and the membership will comprise medical, scientific and MLSO's from several RTC's.
- (iv) Recommendations will be considered at the next meeting of the Management Committee.

3.4 Plasma Supply

- (i) The amended report of the DHSS medical sub-committee was presented.
- (ii) It was agreed that option 2 should be aimed for. This calls, in 1989/90 for the original target of 450 tonnes of plasma to be achieved as an annual rate of collection during the year, i.e. 8.82 tonnes per million of the population of each region.
- (iii) Members of the Committee commented that funding to this level of collection had not been made and application for additional revenue would have to be made. A unanimous request was made for a letter to be sent to RHA's. Should this be sent from the Director of Operations, NHS Management Board, or the National Director?
- (iv) The introduction of cross-charging is seen as an important factor.

- (v) Proposals from Haemonetics Corporation to supply plasmapheresis collection sets at a uniform national price and machines free of charge was considered and approved in principle. It will be forwarded to the appropriate Regional Supplies Officer.

3.5 Management Information Systems

- (i) A survey has been made of existing systems and a large variation has been found with many deficiencies.
- (ii) A time-table has been drawn up for the implementation of M.I.S. (NMC 7/88).

3.6 Donor Recruitment, Retention and Publicity

- (i) The existing DHSS Donor Publicity Committee will be reconstituted, provided with new terms of reference and operated from the Directorate.
- (ii) It is essential that a structured policy is required and this will require the restraining of some ad hoc efforts by RDO's and channelling their efforts in a uniform manner.

3.7 Cross-charging

- (i) Dr. Moore has had preliminary discussions at the CBLA and has followed these up with a visit to Birmingham RTC.
- (ii) Several problem areas have been identified and the possible means for their resolution.
- (iii) This work will progress during the coming weeks.

3.7 Meetings of Sub-Committees

The minutes of recent meetings of the Greater London Blood Supplies Working Party, the RDO's Committee, and the Administrators Committee were considered.

4. Other matters

- (i) Correspondence between the Director of Age Concern and Mrs. E. Currie was discussed and a policy for donors over the age of 65 years was formulated.
- (ii) Visits have been made to three RTC's to consider management structures and quality assurance.

H.H. GUNSON
5.12.88.