



NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Director: G. W. G. BIRD, Ph.D., M.B.B.S., F.R.C.Path.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Director

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Advised 16/2

Dear Dr. Maycock,

Blood Issues - 1971

... I enclose a statement (Table I) of blood issues and returns for 1971. It is again apparent that policies for using the Service are fixed and that certain hospitals return relatively large amounts of blood which have been requested and not used.

... It was decided to extend our survey, and I therefore append two more tables: one (Table II) which breaks down issues on the basis of ABO groups and Rhesus-positives and -negatives, and another (Table III) which gives some data on the 'blood round'.

It will be seen from Table II that there is a bias towards transfusion of group O Rhesus negative blood, which in some hospitals seems excessive. Although this may be explained on the basis of clinical selection, I cannot help thinking that group O Rhesus negative blood is being transfused indiscriminately. I request you to discontinue this unnecessary practice which unbalances stocks and may deprive some group O Rhesus negative patients of blood they may desperately need.

Table III is confined to hospitals which are sent the quota they have requested. You would readily see that two rather striking facts emerge. The first is that no hospital accepted its entire quota; indeed, one hospital accepted only 36.70% of their stated requirements. The other is that all these hospitals have had substantial extra issues and some of them ultimately returned unused an even larger number of units of blood.

I again draw your attention to the fact that requests for extra issues of stored blood are often received within an hour or two of our regular deliveries which were not accepted in full. I find this very difficult to understand.

My staff and I shall be happy to help with any logistical problems that you may have so that we may then be able to provide all hospitals with a correctly assessed and properly balanced quota of blood.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr. G.W.G. Bird,
Director.

To: All Hospital Pathologists

Copy to: Dr. Christie W. Gordon, Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Dr. W. d'A. Maycock, Department of Health and Social Security.