

## SAC(M)2nd MEETING

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

## STANDING MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 1978 AT ALEXANDER FLEMING HOUSE,  
ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, SE1

PRESENT: Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris (Vice Chairman)  
 Professor K G M M Alberti  
 Mr A G Apley  
 Dr J Badenoch  
 Dame Josephine Barnes  
 Dr F S W Brimblecombe  
 Professor A R Buchan  
 Dr J C Cameron  
 Dr S J Carne  
 Professor Sir John Dewhurst  
 Dr A St J Dixon  
 Mr C J Hadfield  
 Dr W G Harding  
 Dr G Murray Jones  
 Dr R A Keable-Elliott  
 Dr E V Kuenssberg  
 Dr D Metcalfe  
 Mr R S Murley  
 Mr R Pracy  
 Professor W Linford Rees  
 Professor C E Stroud  
 Dr W Turner  
 Professor Sir Robert Williams  
 Dr M A Wilson  
 Mr R H Deighton (Secretary)

## IN ATTENDANCE

Dr Elizabeth Shore  
 Dr E L Harris  
 Dr G Crompton  
 Miss A M Lamb  
 Dr Esther Simpson  
 Dr W J Modle  
 Dr A Mackinnon  
 Dr Sheila Waiter  
 Miss P Wright-Warren  
 Mr J G Gooderham  
 Miss A McLean

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from:

Professor W H Trethowan  
 Professor Sir Douglas Black  
 Dr P Horrocks  
 Professor E G Knox  
 Professor I McColl  
 Professor R E Steiner  
 Professor E D Williams  
 Dr K S Williamson

## 2. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

2.1 Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris was deputising for the Chairman, Professor W H Trethowan, in the latter's absence abroad.

2.2 The terms of office of several members expired on 31 March 1978 and the Secretary of State, having consulted various professional bodies, had made some changes in the membership. Existing members who had been reappointed were: Professor W H Trethowan, Professor E D Williams, Dr F S W Brimblecombe, Dr G Murray-Jones and Professor I McColl. New members, appointed initially for 4 years, were: Professor A R Buchan, Mr C J Hadfield, Dr P Horrocks, Professor C E Stroud, Dr W Turner and Dr M A Wilson.

## 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 1978

3.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 6.3 (On the draft revision of the Handbook of Contraceptive Practice.) The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists had been provided with copies of the draft and had commented direct to the authors. The draft would be sent to the General Medical Services Committee for comment when comments of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists had been considered by the authors. The family planning record card quoted in the revision would be replaced by an original version produced by the authors.

Minute 8.4 (On collaboration between members of the primary health care team.) Members were informed that the Department considered that in many areas where staff were beginning to lose faith in the concept, it was possible that preparatory briefing of the general practitioners and many nursing staff concerned had been inadequate. Members expressed concern that there was a lack of enabling facilities for discussion between GPs and nursing management. It was suggested that there was a need for a Working Group of SMAC and SNMAC or for a conference convened by the Department to examine these problems and propose solutions. The Department undertook to consider the matter further and to report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Minute 11.3 (On the Revised Schedule of Vaccination and Immunisation Procedures.) Members confirmed that they thought there was a need for further amplification of the section on rubella vaccination for women of child bearing age, both in relation to receiving vaccination and subsequently becoming pregnant, and to receiving vaccination following childbirth. Members also reiterated their concern about frequent administration of tetanus toxoid which some members felt was due to a lack of communication between doctors working in Accident and Emergency Departments and

general practitioners.

Minute 13.1 (On the Medical Bill.) Further progress was reported.

## 5. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

5.1 The 3 Sub-Committees had not met since the last meeting of SMAC. The meeting of the Standing Sub-Committee on Cancer scheduled for 15 March was cancelled by the Chairman, Professor Sir James Fraser, who intended to convene, during the Summer, a small Chairman's group to consider how the Sub-Committee should undertake the task of formulating a national cancer plan.

5.2 The Joint Standing Sub-Committee on Screening in Medical Care was due to meet next on 18 May, but the next meeting of the Joint Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn would not be held until its Working Party on Antenatal Prophylaxis had reported.

## 6. CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON PREVENTION IN THE CHILD HEALTH SERVICES : PAPER SAC(M)(78)8

6.1 Members considered a draft Health Circular intended to form part of the Government's follow-up to the Court Report and which complemented guidance already given on the overall organisation of services. The document was generally welcomed as an endorsement of the philosophy of the Court Report and an analysis of the principles and objectives of prevention.

6.2 In discussion, the following points were made:

- 6.2.1 there was a need for the document to emphasise the requirement for different patterns of care to be organised according to locality;
- 6.2.2 the document should give a clearer lead on the future of child health prevention services to enable appropriate advance financial and manpower planning to be made by health authorities;
- 6.2.3 the need for a clear definition of the future role of the clinical medical officer, particularly in inner city areas, was stressed; this should include guidance on career structure and training;
- 6.2.4 a firm statement was required on the need for close liaison between paediatric and obstetric services;
- 6.2.5 the low level of take-up of vaccination that appeared to be accepted in the report was a matter for concern, and this section needed revision;



6.2.6 it was generally regarded as regrettable that the guidance given in 1971 on the arrangements for the care of children in hospital had not been universally implemented;

6.2.7 the document made insufficient reference to the possibilities for prevention of handicap;

6.2.8 some mention might be made of the appropriate place for delivery in high risk pregnancies;

6.2.9 the size and layout of the draft neonatal discharge record card were unsatisfactory.

6.3 Members agreed to write to the Department with any other detailed comments on the document, its annexes and the proposed record card.

7. REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRENDS IN THE DEMAND FOR BLOOD PRODUCTS :  
PAPER SAC(M)(78)6

7.1 Members were invited to comment on the Report of a Working Group, the main conclusions of which were that over the next 5 to 10 years the demand for Factor VIII was likely to double and the demand for albumin solutions to increase fourfold.

7.2 Members confirmed that these were likely to be reliable estimates of future need, and supported planning to increase supply accordingly.

8. MEMORANDUM ON MATERNAL CARE BY GENERAL PRACTITIONERS : PAPER SAC(M)(78)9

8.1 A note describing the General Medical Services Committee's suggested amendment to the Memorandum, together with the Department's reactions, was for members' consideration.

8.2 Members endorsed the suggested amendments to paragraph 5, 12, 19 and 21, which had already been accepted by the Department.

8.3 Of the remaining suggestions, it was agreed that:

8.3.1 paragraph 1 should be revised to read:

"The following note describes good maternal and early neonatal care such as might reasonably be expected under the maternity medical services. In undertaking to provide these services, the general practitioner assumes responsibility for providing this standard of care. Normally he will be supported by attached midwives, health visitors and other members of the primary health care team."

8.3.2 the second sentence of paragraph 4 should be revised to read:

"Provisional arrangements should be made usually at this stage to book the mother's confinement in accordance with local obstetric policy, and if she is to be delivered in an obstetric unit by someone other than her own doctor an early antenatal attendance there is desirable."

and should then become the first sentence of that paragraph

8.3.3 the following phrase should be deleted from the second sentence of paragraph 13:

"A careful obstetric examination should be made and ....."

8.3.4 the second sentence of paragraph 15 should be revised on the lines of:

"If he is not able to do so himself, he should make every effort to arrange for a suitably experienced deputy to be available and should inform the midwife."

8.3.5 a new paragraph 22, headed Miscarriage, should be added but this should not take the precise form of the GMSC suggestion, which was not sufficiently positive.

8.4 Members were also asked to advise on whether the opportunity should be taken to include in the Memorandum a reference to screening for neural tube defects. It was agreed that this was not at present appropriate.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 MEMBERSHIP OF CHILDREN'S JOINT COMMITTEE : PAPER SAC(M)(78)11

Members welcomed the setting up of the Children's Joint Committee, whose Chairman designate was Dr F S W Brimblecombe, and noted its terms of reference. They nominated the following to be considered for appointment :

Dr Sulamith Wolff, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

Professor Eric Stroud, Professor of Child Health, Kings College Hospital, London.

Dr Wilfred Harding, Area Medical Officer, Camden and Islington AHA(T)

Dr Stuart Carne, General Practitioner, London W12

Dr Colin Waine, General Practitioner and Clinical Assistant in  
Paediatrics, Bishop Auckland.

Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain, Consultant Obstetrician, Queen Charlotte's  
Hospital, London.

#### 9.2 HIGH SPEED TRAINS

Concern was expressed about the lack of accommodation on High Speed Trains  
for stretcher cases and their attendants, and the Department were asked to  
consider the problem.

#### 10. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Professor W H Trethowan and Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris were unanimously  
elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for a further year.

#### 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4 July 1978.