

RTD
Tabled by Dr 22A
LAD Tovey
on 26/3/80

Minutes of a meeting of the Northern Blood Transfusion Directors held at the Leeds Blood Transfusion Centre on Friday, 7 March, 1980.

Present: Dr. A.K. Collins
Dr. W. Wagstaff
Dr. R. Sokol
Dr. V. James
Dr. A.J.N. Shepherd
Professor F. Stratton
Dr. L.A. Derrick Tovey

Prior to the meeting the Directors inspected the new plasmapheresis vehicle and the mobile Kabmobile.

1. Annual Statistics: Dr. Tovey introduced this subject and circulated a letter he had sent to Dr. Geoffrey Tovey in which he questioned the need to provide statistics in the detail and format we do at present. He also introduced a possible alternative.

It was the general feeling of the meeting that changes were long overdue. In fact a number of Directors questioned the need to provide centrally any statistics at all. There would still be a need to keep some statistics at local level and if figures were required nationally, they could be obtained on request. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed at the full Directors' meeting.

2. Rubella vaccination: The members discussed the letter from Dr. Hambling to Dr. Tovey and agreed with its general concept. However, in order to simplify matters they preferred that the procedure should be as follows:

Inoculation/vaccination

Interval before donor is bled

Rubella

3 months

Smallpox

Yellow fever

Poliomyelitis

Rabies

Influenza

Cholera

Diphtheria or tetanus toxoid

Typhoid (T.A.B.)

3 weeks

3. Code of Practice - Appointment of Working Group: Dr. Tovey reported that he was doing a costing exercise of obtaining plasma for Factor VIII production using the Haemonetics 50. It was reported that Dr. J. Jenkins was doing a projected costing exercise in Brentwood.

At this point a number of members expressed concern about the lack of information coming through to other Centres, about what was going on in the Service. This applied not only to this topic but other aspects of the Service under discussion by local groups or sub-committees. In many cases information was coming from sources outside the Transfusion Service e.g. employees of commercial firms. The members emphasised the importance of all the Directors meeting regularly so that they are kept up-to-date with what is happening in the Transfusion Service as a whole.

Regarding cell separators, members wished to stress that members of this group should be active workers in this field and that the Haemonetic Model 50 should not be restricted by having to keep rigidly to the code of rules as would be expected for the Model 50 and other cell separators.

4. Product Liability: All members were strongly of the opinion that blood and blood products should be excluded from product liability (the statement by Drs. Gunson, Lane and Wood had not been received by Directors at the time of the meeting, but the general tone of discussion would support the conclusion of this paper).
5. Blood grouping of firemen: All Directors were against firemen donating when they were on duty.
6. Awards to donors - 75 donations: All Directors were in favour of the award being given particularly if the donor is retiring around this time. One region supported giving a tie for 150 donations. It was felt that this matter could be left to RDOs to decide.
7. Any other business:

Dr. Holburn's blood grouping reagents: All members were unhappy with the present arrangements. Although performing the tests as recommended by the BGRL they still found that the BGRL were rejecting many of their sera, often sera which had been accepted on innumerable occasions previously! They felt therefore, there was very little more they could do to avoid these anomalies. In fact there was a feeling among one or two members that serum should not be sent down by regions as at present and either grouping reagents should be produced locally or specific vaccination procedure should be commenced to produce more specific sera.

In conclusion the members reiterated their strong feeling that the full Directors' meeting should meet regularly and that although many topics may be considered at sub-committees, there must be an opportunity for them to be discussed at the full Directors' meeting.

Venue of next meeting: Sheffield.