

Working Party on the Treatment of Haemophiliacs

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 4th December 1978 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Dr. W.S.A. Allen  
Dr. G.W.G. Bird  
Dr. F.G.H. Hill  
Dr. R.M. Ibbotson  
Dr. R.W. Payne  
Dr. M.J. O'Shea  
Dr. N.K. Shinton  
Dr. J. Stuart

Dr. J.C. Stewart  
Mrs. J.E. Goodwin - in attendance

Appointment of Chairman

78/1

It was unanimously RESOLVED:-

That Dr. N.K. Shinton should be appointed Chairman  
of the Working Party.

Dr. N.K. SHINTON . . . IN THE CHAIR

Apologies

78/1

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. E.G. Rees.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

78/1

The minutes of the last meeting of the Working Party held on 15th May, 1978 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Organisation of Haemophilia Centres  
(Previous Minute No. 78/6)

78/1

Dr. Shinton reported for information that he had not yet written to the Chairman of Staffordshire Area Medical Committee on this matter, but undertook to do this after this meeting.

Availability of cryoprecipitate and freeze dried Factor VIII concentrate  
(Previous Minute No. 77/22)

78/1

Members received and considered a summary showing the availability of cryoprecipitate and freeze dried Factor VIII concentrate, from March to September, 1978, (Enclosure 1 in Minute file).

Dr. Shinton said that from these figures the BTC was sending 3.7 million units per annum to the Lister Institute, and the return was only 1.4 million units per annum. Taking into account the expected loss, the Region should receive 2.8 million units.

Dr. Bird confirmed these figures and explained that the reason for this loss was that other Regions had to be subsidised. Dr. Bird drew attention to an Editorial in the BMJ on 25th November 1978 on "Freeze Dried Concentrates and the NHS", which referred to the shortage of Factor VIII over the past few years. He said that he had recently

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visited the Blood Bank at Baylor University College of Medicine, Texas, USA, and was interested to learn that no units of whole blood were transfused there. Dr. Bird said that he thought that there should be a wider use of red cell concentrates in this Region, whole blood was being requested when red cell concentrates were suitable.

Dr. Shinton said that the Regional Blood Transfusion Service Advisory Committee was considering the wider use of concentrated red cells.

The problem had been discussed at a recent Haemophilia Director's meeting and Dr. Ellis of the Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree had said that the BPL was concentrating on new technology to increase the yield from plasma. Dr. Bird undertook to write to the new Director of the BPL, Dr. Lane, to ask what was their policy regarding this Region. It was suggested that in addition, Dr. Bird might ask the following questions:-

- (i) Should this Region send more plasma and if so, could the BPL cope with it?
- (ii) Was it likely that the BPL might increase its return to this Region?
- (iii) Was the BPL receiving so much plasma now from throughout the country that the supply from Birmingham was redundant. Would there therefore be the possibility of the West Midlands Blood Transfusion Service converting their plasma into cryoprecipitate locally?

Purchase of Commercial Factor VIII  
(Previous Minute No. 78/5)

78/1

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Speywood Laboratories regarding a possible Regional Contract for Commercial Factor VIII.

It was agreed that no action should be taken at present regarding a Regional Contract until the Regional statistics collected by Dr. Stuart at the beginning of each year had been considered. In the meantime, however, Dr. Stewart was asked to obtain for the next meeting from Speywood Laboratories and other commercial firms, quotations for the supply of 1.2 million units of Factor VIII to see how much saving would be achieved if it was decided to have a central contract.

Use of NHS Factor VIII Concentrate from Lister Institute

78/1

Dr. Stuart raised the question of the use of BPL Factor VIII and said that his practice was to keep BPL Factor VIII and cryoprecipitate for hospital use and surgery, and commercial Factor VIII for home treatment.

At present BPL Factor VIII was being used for home treatment at Coventry and Shrewsbury. It was agreed to discuss the matter in more detail at the next meeting when the annual statistics would be available.

It was suggested that Dr. Stewart might also write to each Haemophilia Centre to determine the number of patients on home therapy and of those, the numbers supplied with BPL Factor VIII and those supplied with Commercial Factor VIII.

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Home Treatment Packs  
(Previous Minute No. 78/3 (a))

78/1

Dr. Stuart said that if there was a change to using BLP Factor VIII for home therapy there would be the problem of making up home treatment packs. He reported that BPL were looking into the question of producing such packs.

Home Therapy Working Party

78/1

Dr. Stuart said that the Working Party on Home Therapy set up by the Haemophilia Directors was studying the employment prospects of Haemophiliacs. They had sent out a questionnaire to all patients suffering from Christmas Disease and Haemophilia. When all the replies had been received it was hoped to draw up a booklet of guidance for employers.

Copies of the questionnaire had also been sent to Directors of Haemophilia Centres in the Region for information.

Appointment of Haemophilia Sister  
(Previous Minute No. 78/3 (b))

78/2

Dr. Stuart reported that a Haemophilia Sister was now in post at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He went on to remind members however that the original request had been for:-

- (i) A full time sister at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.
- (ii) A part-time Nursing Sister at the Children's Hospital made full time.
- (iii) A Regional Nursing Co-ordinator at the Regional Haemophilia Centre.

Dr. Stewart undertook to put items (ii) and (iii) to the RTO for further consideration in February 1979.

Diagnostic facilities in relation to Haemophilia and Haemoglobinopathies  
(Previous Minute No. 78/7)

78/2

Members received for information an extract from the notes of a meeting of the Working Party to Review the Diagnostic Facilities for genetically - Determined Diseases and Congenital Abnormalities, held on 20th July 1978 (Enclosure 2 in Minute file), together with the Report referred to therein, prepared by Dr. Shinton and Dr. Hill. (Enclosure 3 in minute file).

Blood Transfusion Service Advisory Committee

78/2

Dr. Shinton reported that as Chairman of the Blood Transfusion Service Advisory Committee, he had agreed that there should be an exchange of Minutes between that Committee and this Working Party.

Dr. Stewart undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

78/2

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Party should be held on Monday, 14th May, 1979, at 10.30 a.m.

The meeting ended at 12.00 noon.

JEG/MJ  
12th December, 1978.

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