

Note of an ad hoc meeting of Regional Transfusion Directors held at Sheffield
T.C. on Tuesday 11th December 1979

Present: Dr Geoffrey Tovey (Chairman)
Dr G W G Bird
Dr H H Gunson
Dr R S Lane
Dr Diana Walford
Mr T E Dutton

Dr Jenkins sent apologies for absence.

Note of the previous meeting held on 26th September 1979

The note was agreed

Arrangements for financing blood products production

The Chairman explained that the Department felt that it was inappropriate for members of the Department to be preparing papers on a subject of such immediate concern to Regional Treasurers and about which they had not yet been consulted. He had been advised that the Department was well acquainted with the arguments for and against charging for blood products, crediting for plasma and the pro-rata distribution of blood products, and the various possibilities would be examined in the consideration which was being given to gearing up the NBTS to meet the Service requirement for blood products. Members felt, nevertheless, that they should give further consideration to pro-rata distribution of blood products and the Chairman undertook to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Joint Management Committee for the Central Blood Laboratories, if there was time.

Dr Lane emphasised that it was absolutely essential to build a contractual relationship into any future system, including a binding commitment on any Regional Transfusion Centre which undertook to supply BPL with plasma. Supplies of plasma were tending to fall off and there would almost certainly be a drop in the quantity of blood products available unless the Department took drastic action, in conjunction with the Regions, to boost plasma supplies. Dr Lane thought that it would take the Regions longer to gear themselves up to meet a higher plasma target than it would take BPL to make the arrangements to process the additional plasma.

It was agreed that much needed to be done to improve the quality of the plasma being sent to BPL and it was decided that this matter should be discussed at meetings of Regional Groups.

Dr Lane invited members to consider the practicability of rationalising plasma production, possibly concentrating production on 4 or 5 centres where there might be extensive use of plasmapheresis. Members pointed out that this was only feasible if money was provided specifically for the purpose. Dr Lane suggested that the right way to meet this expense was from money included in the BPL budget.

Matters for future consideration

It was agreed that at the next meeting
would up-date the evidence prepared for the Royal Commission* Dr Wagstaff
would be co-opted for this meeting.

11am.23 January in room 922
Rennell House

Directors

*Original version attached.

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