

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH

HEPATITIS

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- I. Note of meeting held on Thursday, 8th January 1970. The following were present:-

Dr.Cumming) Blood Transfusion Service.
Dr.Cash)

Dr.Bowie) Department of Bacteriology.
Dr.Tonkin)

Dr.Swain - Department of Bacteriology at the University.

Dr.Robson - Renal Unit.

Lady Superintendent of Nurses.
Medical Superintendent.

After a long and exhaustive discussion the following was agreed:-

1. That Dr.Swain should discuss the problem of immunology with the Senior Administrative Medical Officer, as would the Medical Superintendent.
2. That "early warning" (RADAR) be continued through -
 - (a) Liver Function
 - (b) Hepatitis Antigen Tests.
3. That gammaglobulin be not given at this stage except -
 - i. On individual request by a member of staff.
 - ii. In the event of an accident, e.g. blood contaminating a cut finger.
4. That the position be reviewed in the light of para.2.

- II. Note of meeting held on Monday, 12th January. The following were present:-

Dr.Robson
Medical Superintendent
Dr.Bowie (attended for part of the time as did Sister Herbertson).

Dr.Bowie's letter of 10th January 1970 to Dr.Robson (see appendix 'A') was discussed and the following points were agreed between Dr.Robson, the Medical Superintendent and Sister Herbertson:-

1. Ward 21. The patient with jaundice will remain in the ward, but the bedpans he uses will be sanitized at the Renal Isolation Unit.
2. New bakelite seats will be ordered by Sister for the w.c's
3. Two dozen extra bedpans will be indented for by Sister.

4. When 24 hour urine collections are being taken the bottles and their funnels will be immersed in glutaraldehyde solution or treated in another acceptable way.
5. KITCHEN. The terazzo and wood/marble table-tops will be covered with formica.
6. Electric kettle will be indented for.
7. CROCKERY & UTENSILS. After cleaning will be immersed for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. in glutaraldehyde solution, thereafter the articles will be rinsed in hot water. Sister will consider whether to transfer the small steriliser at present now in the M.R.U. to Ward 21, or take the jaundiced patient's eating utensils across in a polythene bag and sterilise them in the R.I.U.

It was agreed that the other items suggested by Dr.Bowie should be considered when Ward 21 is properly upgraded. It was further agreed that the Board of Management be asked to renovate Ward 21, as soon as Ward 11's renovation is completed.

Dr.Robson's letter of 9th January was noted - see appendix 'B'.

The Chairman of the Board of Management, Professor Romanes and the Secretary & Treasurer, Mr.Hurst, were informed of the above at the briefing for the Board Meeting on the evening of 12th January.

III. Note of meeting held on Tuesday, 20th January 1970. The following were present:-

Dr.Swain
Dr.Robson
Dr.Tonkin
Dr.Cumming
Medical Superintendent.

1. It was reported that:-

47 Nurses
7 Auxiliaries
10 Laboratory Technicians
9 Doctors
<u>73</u>

had had their "early warning" tests, and that all were negative.

2. It was agreed to continue our policy about the use of gammaglobulin - see para.I 3 above.
3. The memorandum prepared by Dr.Cash entitled "Hepatitis Antigen Immunoassay - Assessment of Requirements" was discussed and supported. - see appendix 'C'.
4. A discussion took place on whether the Hepatitis Antigen tests should be the responsibility of the Blood Transfusion Service, the R.I.E. Bacteriology Dept., or the Virologists, whether at the University or at the City Hospital, when their Virologist is appointed.
5. Dr.Swain agreed to discuss, with Professor Marmion, the possibility of a research team being formed.
6. Dr.Swain, Dr.Robson and Dr.Cumming were to consider where suitable laboratory space might be provided.

7. Dr.Cumming agreed that the Blood Transfusion Service would continue the Hepatitis Antigen Tests meantime.

IV. Informal meeting with Dr.Cumming and the Medical Superintendent on receipt on 9th February of Dr.Cumming's letter of 5th February - see appendix 'D'.

It was agreed that this letter be brought to the next meeting of the Medical Committee to be held on Monday, 23rd February.

V. At an informal discussion between Dr.Robson and the Medical Superintendent, it was suggested that laboratory space might be found in a recently vacated room in Dr.Robson's department. This was not found to be possible.

VI. Copy of a letter to the Dean from Professor Sir Michael Woodruff received on 14th February - see appendix 'E'.

Dr.Robson's letter of 13th February - see appendix 'F' - also received.

VII. Mr.John G.Clark, F.R.C.S., Lecturer in the Department of Surgical Science and Honorary Senior Registrar in the R.I.E., was transferred from the City Hospital to the R.I.U., R.I.E. on Sunday, 15th February, but despite two exchange transfusions he died on Tuesday, 17th February.

VIII. The S.A.M.O. was asked to pursue, on behalf of Mrs [GRO-A] the granting of benefits which might be claimed under the Industrial Injuries Scheme, for those who contract hepatitis while working in Intermittent Dialysis Units.

He intended to discuss the matter with the Legal Adviser as well as with the Department of Home and Health.

IX. Note of meeting held on Wednesday, 18th February. The following were present:-

Professor L.G.Whitby; Dr.I.Percy Robb;
Dr.H.A.Raeburn; Dr.J.Cash; Miss M.F.Cullen;
Dr.J.S.Robson; Dr.R.Tonkin; Dr.S.H.Davies;
Sir Michael Woodruff; Dr.J.Brown; Dr.R.A.Cumming;
Dr.A.B.Donald; Dr.S.G.M.Francis and Dr.R.C.S.Burnett.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the following recommendations be made:-

1. That the Scottish Home and Health Department be asked to provide guidance as to the procedure to be followed by persons exposed to the risk of infection.
2. That the S.E.R.H.B. be asked to provide facilities for the treatment of major hepatic failure in Edinburgh as soon as possible.
3. That all close contacts in the treatment of the late Mr [GRO-A] be given gammaglobulin, and at the same time 5 ml. blood be taken off and sent to the Blood Transfusion Centre.
4. That the City Hospital be informed of the above.
5. That all cases of hepatitis occurring in the R.I.E. group be notified to the Medical Superintendent.

over/...

X. FINALLY

In addition to the recommendations recorded in IX paras. 1 to 5, the Board of Management are requested to approve the following:-

1. The immediate provision of the following to enable the Hepatitis Antigen Tests to be carried out for twelve months in a small laboratory in Professor Girdwood's department.

(a) One technician or Laboratory Assistant - Salary £500 - £1000 p.a.

(b) Equipment:

Deep Freeze	£ 85
Refrigerator	70
2 x Vertical Freeze file units.	90
1 inoculating hood	140
Micro-immuno-diffusion sets ...	50
Water bath	35
	<u>£470</u>

(c) Furnishings:

Floor coverings.	
Formica bath top.	
2 chairs; 2 stools, cupboard, bin, shelving etc. say	£100

(d) Fittings:

2 x 15 amp. power points.

2. The immediate provision of 14 x individual Kill Sandwiches and trolleys at about £350 each = £4,900 approx.
3. That Ward 21 be the next ward to be renovated.

POSTSCRIPT.

Dr. Robson's letter of 20th February 1970 was received to-day - see appendix 'G'.

GRO-C

20th February 1970.

Medical Superintendent.