

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 1983
AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY,
HANNIBAL HOUSE, ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.



Present: Dr E L Harris - Chairman

Members: Miss D Blenkinsop - RMO, Northern RHA
Dr J Darnborough - RTD, East Anglian RHA
Dr D Ferguson-Lewis - Welsh Office
Dr I D Fraser - RTD, South Western RHA
Dr H H Gunson - Consultant Adviser
Dr R S Lane - Director, Blood Products Laboratory
Mr T R Layzell - RT, Wessex RHA
Dr R Rue - RMO, Oxford RHA
Dr W Wagstaff - RTD, Trent RHA

Secretariat: Dr D Walford
Mr S Godfrey
Mr S Green

Observers: Dr A E Bell - SHHD
Dr J D Cash - National Medical Director, Scottish NBTS
Dr G T M Lawson - DHSS Northern Ireland
Mr J Parker - DHSS
Miss P Scoular - DHSS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/INTRODUCTIONS

1. Apologies had been received from Mr Baker (RA, Northern RHA). The Chairman welcomed Dr Ferguson-Lewis (Welsh Office) and Mr Parker, who had replaced Mr Harley.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - AC(82)19

2. These were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

3. a. Intra-Regional Charging Mr Layzell reported that the question of charging Districts for RTC services had received little support when discussed at the Regional Treasurers' meeting in November. He confirmed that the study to be undertaken in Wessex Region into the feasibility of charging Regions for BPL's products would cover also intra-regional charging, though he acknowledged that the Advisory Committee had concluded that there was at present little scope for progress.
- b. Charging Non-NHS Hospitals Mr Godfrey reported that Ministers were still considering the introduction of handling charges for blood supplied to non-NHS hospitals.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY - AC(83)4

4. The Chairman reported that the CBLA had held an informal meeting on 3 December 1982 at which it had nominated Dr Gunson as its representative on the Advisory Committee. Members may wish to note that the Secretary to the CBLA is Mr W P N Armour.

The Authority's address is The Crest, Blood Products Laboratory, Elstree, Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire WD6 3BX, Telephone 01-953 6191.⁷

STOCK CONTROL AND RECORD-KEEPING IN THE NBTS AND HOSPITAL BLOOD BANKS - AC(83)1

5. Mr Godfrey summarised the background to the CMS report on stock control and record-keeping. He explained that the study had reinforced the view expressed at the last Advisory Committee meeting that guidance issued by DHSS in 1964 required updating and strengthening. Several of the report's wide-ranging recommendations restated what should be, in most blood banks, good practice. In the light of the study team's findings DHSS had prepared a draft health circular (Annex B to AC(83)1). The Committee's views were sought on the report's findings, the approach outlined in the draft circular and the distribution of the report.
6. In discussion the following points were agreed:-
 - i. There were considerable benefits to be gained from RTDs and consultant haematologists meeting formally under the chairmanship of RMOs. Dr Rue, who had discussed the proposal with fellow RMOs, confirmed their support for such discussions.
 - ii. The Committee considered that the theoretical advantages of improved accountability to be gained from the introduction of a standard inventory form allied to a daily stock count were considerably outweighed by the increased work-load it would entail for blood banks' staff and the impracticability of a daily inventory in the way which had been suggested by CMS.
 - iii. The Committee advised that a health circular was the most effective means of disseminating guidance to those persons concerned in the control of blood and recommended its early issue, with a summary of the CMS report, for consultation in the normal way. It recommended that copies of the full report should be made available to interested parties on request and its availability should be advertised in the Department's Bulletin of Publications.
7. Mr Godfrey undertook to refine the circular in the light of the Committee's views and to seek Ministers' approval to consult health authorities, the Joint Consultants Committee and the Joint Liaison Committee for Independent Health Care.
8. The Committee confirmed the view expressed at the meeting on 15 September that there would be little practical benefit in individual numbering of bottles of Factor VIII and ppf.

DOCUMENTATION AT BPL - AC(83)2

9. Mr Godfrey explained that a separate study (AC(83)2) had considered record-keeping arrangements at BPL and had concluded that the documentation system at the Laboratory effectively controlled stock. The 4 recommendations made were designed to strengthen the existing system. The Committee noted that further discussions on detail would take place with the Director of BPL.

NBTS RESEARCH

10. The Chairman explained that following MRC's decision to disband its Blood Transfusion Research Committee the CBLA would consider whether the

research committee it intended to establish could be broadened to stimulate and coordinate NBTS research with representatives or observers as appropriate from SHHD and the MRC. This suggestion had been discussed informally with the Authority's Chairman, who had expressed his support, and would be discussed by the full Authority. Dr Gunson, as CBLA's representative on the Advisory Committee, undertook to report progress at the next meeting.

EXCHEQUER AND AUDIT INVESTIGATION OF NBTS

11. Mr Godfrey reported that the Exchequer and Audit Department had concluded their work in the blood transfusion field and had sent to the Health Departments their report, the brevity of which was in itself a compliment to the NBTS. Exchequer and Audit had asked for their thanks to be passed on to the staff of RTCs who had cooperated fully in the exercise. The report itself dealt primarily with the redevelopment of the Blood Products Laboratory, in particular the scope for collaboration with the Protein Fractionation Centre, Liberton, and the different prices paid by some Transfusion Centres for blood bags. A Departmental response had been prepared in consultation with the Scottish Home and Health Department.
12. In response to members' request, Mr Godfrey agreed to circulate a note on the Department's view on the different prices of blood bags. (AC(83)7 attached).

CENTRALISATION OF REAGENT PRODUCTION - AC(83)5

13. Dr Walford explained that the paper was an extract from the Blood Group Reference Laboratory's Annual Report for 1982 prepared by the Laboratory's Director, Dr Holburn. The Committee noted that there could be scope for a more rational distribution of reagent manufacture, particularly given the improved facilities at BGRL's new premises. However, there were a number of considerations to be weighed including the availability of facilities and skilled staff at RTCs as well as developments in monoclonal antibody reagents.
14. Dr Gunson explained that RTDs were to be asked to set up a working party to look at the whole question of reagent production. The Committee welcomed this initiative and looked forward to receiving Directors' views and recommendations.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NBTS Cost Forms

15. Mr Layzell reported that, in consultation with DHSS Finance Division, Dr Gunson and Mr Wong of North Western RHA, he had drawn up revised cost forms which he hoped could be introduced from April 1983. It was his intention to seek the views of fellow Regional Treasurers as soon as possible. It was agreed that the Secretariat should send copies of the proposed forms to RTDs inviting them to comment direct to their Regional Treasurers or, should they prefer, to Mr Godfrey who would coordinate their responses.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. This will take place on either Monday 4 July 1983 or Monday 17 October 1983 as business demands.

January 1983

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