

NOTES OF MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING

Monday 4th March 1991

Present: Dr McDougall (Chairman)
Dr Allain
Dr Ouwehand

Dr Williamson
Mr Hawdon

In Attendance: Dr Rankin

1. Matters Arising

a) Gulf Crisis

It was accepted that as far as the BTS was concerned, the Gulf Crisis was over and all emergency arrangements were now cancelled. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent out from Dr McDougall. Mr Hawdon would be writing to voluntary helpers. A party for staff should be considered later in the year.

The additional arrangements for communication would be withdrawn, except that the direct telephone line in the issues department would remain. The costs will be collated and would be submitted to RHA. Provision should be made for the extra costs of blood collection other than for the units sent to the ABSD.

Blood collection targets were still being exceeded and consideration should be given to reducing weekly totals; if possible reduce to twelve sessions per week for a short period. Dr Williamson would enquire into the question of excess blood stock being made available to Eastern European Countries.

b) Budget Devolution

i) Dr Williamson listed the RTC blood products available for 1991/92 for which Mr Mann would provide individual prices. These prices would be shown on the 'dummy' invoices submitted to hospitals. Dr Ouwehand said that RTC reagent prices would be available shortly.

ii) Concern was expressed at the apparent change in commitment from BPL to accept a higher input of plasma from RTC's. Cambridge had planned to a level of 24 tonnes for 1991/92 but in view of recent correspondence from Dr R Moore a target of 20.39 tonnes had been submitted. It was agreed that Dr Williamson should inform Dr Moore that the Cambridge business plan was based on a level of 24 tonnes and the necessary capital investment to achieve this was available. A reduced level would create problems. Copies of letter to Director of Public Health and Chairman of Regional Health Authority.

iii) The direct funding from Regional Health Authority would be £343,000 to cover ant&-natal screening and all RTC services other than the provision of blood products and BPL Therapeutic products. Dr Allain asked for the costs of the ant&-natal service to be calculated; Dr Ouwehand gave details of the decision of King's Lynn to undertake screening locally.

iv) The question whether the RTC should continue to purchase BPL products on behalf of hospitals was addressed. Dr Gunson had advised of circumstances which dictated the need for a Wholesale Dealers Licence. The way in which the Regional Transfusion Centre budget had been devolved and the influence which would accrue by purchasing for hospitals indicated the continued purchase by the Regional Transfusion Centre. A 'Licence' would therefore be required. *

c) Anti HCV Testing

Details of the test kits and systems being considered were given by Dr Rankin. Regional Transfusion Centres had been advised that the Department of Health Procurement Directorate is negotiating contract purchase. Dr Allian asked that no decisions be taken until he took up post.

d) Staff Absences

No decision; awaiting further information.

2. Donor Selection

Deferred.

3. National HBS AG Standard

The request for serum to be supplied to Dr Phillips of NIBSC and the request from the Royal College of Science was referred to Dr Ouwehand.

4. Medical Staffing

Discussion took place on the medical staffing requirements following Dr Ouwehand taking up his appointment with NIBSC. Following which Dr Allain confirmed that he was dealing with the matter including the funding. He asked if Dr Ouwehand would delay taking up his new appointment until after April 1st apart from his current level of commitments.

5. Haemoglobin Test Failures New Protocol

Referred for discussion Dr's Rankin, Williamson and Ouwehand.

6. Plasmapheresis and Bone Marrow Donor Panel

Referred for discussion Dr's Rankin, Williamson and Ouwehand.

7. Regional Transfusion Centre Maintenance Report

The report from Mr Hawdon on current problems of Regional Transfusion Centre maintenance was noted. A further report with recommendations would be submitted in due course.

8. Quality Assurance Department Staffing

Deferred.

9. Emergency Deliveries - Blue Lamp

Deferred.

10. Visit to Pall Bio Medical

It was agreed that the request to sign a confidentiality agreement was a routine matter and should be completed.

11. No Smoking Policy

The request to extend use of the smoking area to outside normal working hours was agreed. It was however, emphasised that no smoking allowed in any other area of the building.

12. Regional Transfusion Centre Transport

Dr McDougall gave details of discussions which are being held with the Cambridge Health District. Consideration was being given to vehicle purchasing, servicing, repair and organisation of services.

13. Blood Collection

Dr Allain asked what plans were available to base collection teams at other centres of population. So far consideration had been given only to an outposted team (or teams) which it was thought could provide considerable savings. Dr Allain gave details of the Deansbrook permanent centre which handled 25,000 donors per year and was considered to be cost effective. He also wished to investigate a cytaphersis unit operating from the Norfolk and Norwich hospital. Mr Hawdon and Dr Williamson were asked to prepare proposals for discussion in April.

14. Laboratory Staffing

Dr McDougall gave details of a discussion with Mr Fletton concerning laboratory staffing and other matters. It was agreed that Mr Fletton should be asked to attend Management Group meetings when such matters were discussed.

15. Donor Test Results

Concern was expressed that confidential information on tests carried out at the RTC were being made available to Consultant staff without the knowledge of the donor. It was agreed that such information should remain confidential and should not in future be provided unless specific approval was first obtained.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 March 1991 at 10.00 am.