Draft 22.6.87

UK BTS/NIBSC

Working Group on Blood Components

Minutes of 1st meeting, at MRC Head Office, 20 Park Crescent, London W1
10.30am Friday, 19 June 1987

PRESENT:

Dr W Wagstaff	(Chairman)	RTC Sheffield
Dr F A Ala		RTC Birmingham
Dr D R Bangham	(Secretary)	NIBSC
Dr P E Hewitt		RTC Edgware
Dr T Snape		BPL Elstree

Precirculated papers: Draft minutes of 1st meeting of UK BTS/NIBSC Liaison Group (UK BTS/NIBSC LG 87/1) and Annex Draft Brief for Chairman of Working Group.

1 The Terms of Reference of the Working Group were discussed. It was explained that the aim of the BTS/NIBSC Liaison Group is to formulate guidelines for BTS activities, which could be accepted by the DHSS Licencing Authority as national guidelines when crown immunity was withdrawn from the Transfusion Service. It was agreed to call this working group the Working Group on Blood Components, and that it should deal with blood donors, blood collection, and single or pooled blood components prepared for local clinical use.

The nature and style of the proposed guidelines were discussed. It was considered that the BTS needed a set of detailed technical 'operating instructions' for use within the service. Several of the documents already drafted by the BTS Quality Assurance Working Party 1986, chaired by Dr Wagstaff, were suitable for such purpose. However, the guidelines for the Liaison Group were perhaps best modelled on the WHO Requirement*, which are to be revised in December 1987. It would then be possible to build upon the updated international requirements. Alternatively, the document to be formulated might follow the style of the general guidelines prepared by the NIBSC for products made by new biotechnology. It was expected that a decision as to the nature and style of the BTS/NIBSC guidelines will be made by the Liaison Group at its meeting in July.

2 MEMBERSHIP

Mr A Barr of W Scotland Transfusion Centre, Carluke to be added to the present membership.

3 In response to the requests made in the Brief for Chairman, Annexed to the minutes of the Liaison Group:

*The collection fractionation quality control and uses of blood and blood products. WHO 1981, and 'Requirements for Biological Substances No. 27. These documents are to be revised in December 1987.

3.1 The following were considered to fall in the remit of the Working Group:

(a) Whole blood and its components
Red cell preparations (plasma-reduced, concentrated, frozen, filter-washed, lencocyte reduced, and resuspended red cells
Platelet preparations (single, pooled, irradiated)
Non-cellular components, frozen fresh plasma, cryoprecipitate, cryoprecipitate supernatant plasma
(b) Donor selection and sessional procedures
(c) Storage transport, laboratory testing, documentation

3.2 The following priorities were recorded:

(a) Selection of donors
(b) Session procedures
(c) Laboratory testing
(d) Documentation
(e) Products, as listed
(f) Storage and transport

3.3 The work will overlap with that of the Working Group on Diagnostic Reagents (in blood grouping) and with that of the Working Group on Plasma Fractions on donor selection and procedures, documentation and handling of plasma donations. It would overlap with work of a Working Group on microbiological testing, if one is set up, as recommended below.

3.4 The standards involved for the work of the Working Group are those for
Blood grouping
Factor VIII (British Working Standard)
Anti-D (British Working Standard, used in hospitals)
Various antimicrobial agents; CMV antibody)
HLA system antisera

3.5 Dr Wagstaff will distribute copies of the current draft document from the Council of Europe.

3.6 It was agreed that many clinical transfusion reactions were under reported.

(a) Some were reactions to formed elements (eg missmatched cells) or to non-formed elements, (eg Anti-Ig A, sensitization)
(b) Microbial: transmission of infections
reactions to endotoxins
(c) Hypervolaemia

3.7 Topics for research included problems of

(1) Alloimmunization (wbc, platelets; graft viruses lost, & HLA types)
(2) Virus inactivation and testing

4 Members will examine the WHO 1981 Requirements and list aspects that need updating.

5 It was decided to recommend to the Liaison Group, the formation of a Working Group on Microbiological Tests

6 It is asked that minutes of each Working Group of the Liaison Group be distributed to members of all Working Groups.

7 The date of the next meeting will depend on decisions taken by the Liaison Group in July. A start at 10.30am and a venue at MRC or St Margaret Street were deemed convenient.