



NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE
East Anglian Blood Transfusion Centre

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Division of Transfusion Medicine



Long Road Cambridge CB2 2PT
Tel (0223) 245921 Fax (0223) 411618

Dr Angela Robinson

Is this OK - John Barbana
is happy with my approach

GRO-C: Lorna

With Compliments

22/12/95



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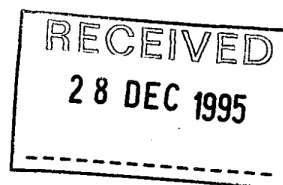


22nd December 1995

Our ref: LMW/cmh

Dr Julia Heptonstall
Public Health Laboratory Service
61 Colindale Avenue
Colindale
London
NW9 5HT

Dear Dr Heptonstall



Serious Hazards of Transfusion Reporting

As you probably know, I have been chairing a small working group for the last 18 months to try to put together a National system for reporting of serious complications of transfusion, for which there has never been any previous mechanism. I realise I probably have been remiss in not keeping you more closely informed of what we have been doing, because in discussions with John Barbara it would seem to be sensible for us to work more closely together to avoid either duplication or gaps. When my group was originally set up John Barbara was the link between our activities and the system you and John have set up with Kate Soldan. We have been working on the assumption that your system for collecting data on post-transfusion infections and our scheme to collect information on non-infectious complications would run completely separately. However, I think John feels that there might be some advantage to your group to come under the overall umbrella of SHOT. The main advantage we perceive is that we plan to employ fairly intensive publicity within the medical, nursing and laboratory scientist professions to encourage reporting from grass root level upwards. The operational implications for your system in coming in under the overall SHOT scheme would be virtually none. You and Kate have obviously put together an extremely well thought out scheme, which I would not wish to interfere with in any way. We would just have to sort out things like the terms of reference to make sure they were compatible with both your needs and the sensitivities of hospital trusts concerning some other complications which may arise due to hospital errors.

A Steering Group has just been formed, with representation from a variety of professional bodies, including Royal Colleges and professional organisations. Although originally John Barbara offered to act as the link on that Group between non-infectious and infectious reporting, I think it would be very worthwhile to have you on the Steering Group as a full member in your own right (John can stay on too as the BBTS representative).

Dr Julia Heptonstall

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22nd December 1995

I am aware that your system is already up and running and fully funded. While we hope to launch the non-infectious reporting and the whole SHOT system in the Spring, we still have no official funding. Lots of enthusiasm from everyone concerned, but this has never been accompanied by any funding!

I do hope you will feel able to join the Steering Group. A date has not been fixed for the next meeting but since I am quite often at Colindale Transfusion Centre, I would be very happy to pop in and have a discussion with you reasonably soon as to how you see the two systems dovetailing together. If you agree to join I can send you all the relevant papers and minutes.

With best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Dr Lorna Williamson

Copy to: Dr John Barbara
Dr Angela Robinson