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September
11th Meeting of the NBA Executive 8th November 1994

Medical Director's Report

1. Circulated notes on AR's meeting with Dr Graham Winyard of NHSE for information and future guidance informing Regional networks within the public health directorates.
2. Announcement of the Consultant appointment at Newcastle Transfusion Centre. The appointment of Dr Dorothy Stainsby as a Consultant Haematologist based at Newcastle Transfusion Centre will be recommended for ratification at the next NBA Board Meeting.
3. A reminder to all RTC's that the new system for the Medical Assessment of donors should be introduced to all blood donor sessions by April 1st 1995. If any RTC is having difficulty in complying with this programme the Medical Director needs to be informed as soon as possible.
4. Announcement that the West Midlands Regional Blood Transfusion Centre has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for training and development in Transfusion Medicine for a 3 year period.
5. A request was made for all RTC's to abide by and comply with the A - Z guidelines which should have been in place from April 1st 1994. The Medical Director is still getting letters from various organisations e.g. the Vitilgo Society, indicating that these A - Z guidelines are not being consistently applied across the country. It is acknowledged that there are still some controversial areas that need amending and the SAC on Donor Selection is working hard to a tight timescale to tackle each of these issues. Until such time as any amendments to the A - Z guidelines are issued, for consistency compliance with the current guidelines is requested. All suggestions for any amendments should be directed to Dr Virge James, chairman of the SAC on Donor Selection.
6. The SACTTI wish to recommend a quarantining policy for clinical FFP and Cryo at the next MSBT meeting to increase the safety of these fresh blood components with a shelf life of 12 months. A suitable quarantine period with donor retesting prior to release

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should eliminate the risk of transfusion transmitted infection from "window period" donations. This would be in line with other European countries such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Denmark and Germany who have either already introduced a system of quarantining or who are already at the discussion and planning phase. The MSBT will be asked to approve the policy in principle, the next step being for the SACTTI to formulate a plan and a time scale for its simultaneous introduction into the UK.

7. A finalised document on the proposal for the introduction of ALT testing by BPL for all donations will be presented to the next meeting of the MSBT on the 29th September 1994.
8. The SACTTI have prepared a proposal to be forwarded to the next MSBT meeting recommending that an HCV "Look-Back" programme should be introduced into the UK in the near future. This is to enable the NBS to extend its duty of care to the recipient as well as the donor.
9. A letter had been received from NIBSC requesting that RTC's give careful consideration to providing raw material for the preparation of working standards at no charge. These working standards are provided free of charge by NIBSC for use throughout the NBS, forming a vital component of each RTC's quality assurance programme.