

→ DR HEWITT

MINUTES OF THE EASTERN DIVISION MEETING
HELD AT CAMBRIDGE BTS ON THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 1992

Present: Dr J F Harrison (Chairman)
Dr H Boralessa (Secretary)
Dr M Brennan
Dr B Brozovic
Dr E Caffrey
Dr J Calver-James
Mrs G Fryers
Dr J Kemp
Ms B Phipps
Dr E Ranasinghe
Colonel M Thomas
Dr L Williamson

1). Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Professor J P Allain, Dr M Contreras, Dr M de Silva, Dr A Gorman, Dr P Hewitt, Dr S Knowles, Dr W Ouwehand, Dr S M McDougall and Dr L Paton.

The Chairman welcomed Dr Calver-James of the ABSD to the Meeting.

2). Minutes of the Meeting on 2 September 1992

Dr Ranasinghe pointed out that on page 2 paragraph 3.4 the penultimate line "HIV" should be replaced by "HCV".

The minutes of the Meeting were accepted as a true record.

3). Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda.

4). Agenda and Papers for the NMC Meeting on 3 December 1992

Matters Arising from the NMC minutes of 7 September 1992

3.1 Revision of the AIDS Leaflet

Dr Harrison commented that the contents of the leaflet were simple and easy to understand. However the design of the leaflet which had been shown to POD Committee members was such that it could not be packed into an envelope by machine. This is being investigated as it could cause major problems in some Centres. Eastern Division members wish to receive a draft copy of the leaflet as soon as possible.

3.2 Record Storage Report

Members reiterated that they were anxious to know for how long records should be kept, and that there should be clear national guidelines on record storage. The most cost effective system would seem to be to set up a national record storage and retrieval system. The Centres represented at Eastern Division Meetings will consider setting up a joint record keeping system, if there is no progress in setting up a national scheme.

3.4 Stockpile of Plasma for Fractionation

Mrs Fryers informed the Meeting that all HCV untested plasma at BPL has been fractionated. All products other than the immunoglobulin would have been issued to the customers by 31 December 1992. But if all products made from HCV untested plasma have been cleared for issue by 31 December 1992 then this will fulfill the relevant FEC criteria. It is therefore anticipated that no product will be wasted.

3.5 Environmental Liability

Colonel Thomas mentioned that there is a useful booklet available and promised to provide details.

4.3 Anti HBc

Dr Brennan informed members that there was a technical problem with the interpretation of the screen test and the confirmatory test. There is a trial going on to resolve these problems.

4.4 HCV Confirmatory Testing Procedure

Members welcomed Professor Allain's proposal for comparison of screening and study of confirmatory tests. It was felt that the commercial companies involved should be approached to provide funding for PCR testing.

14.2 Selection of Donors

It was noted that some members have already received a draft copy of the new "Red Book" guidelines and some Centres have even implemented some of the new guidelines. Members felt very strongly that:

- (a) A draft copy of the new guidelines should be issued to every Centre and comments invited. A deadline should be given, by which time comments must be received.
- (b) The committee drafting the new guidelines should be prepared on request to explain the rationale for decisions regarding the selection of donors, so that the reason for these decisions can be explained to donors.

- (c) There should be a national implementation date for the introduction of the revised guidelines and an agreed "lead in" time e.g. if a donor has been deferred for six months following acupuncture then he/she should be accepted after this time, whilst any donors subsequently reporting acupuncture will be deferred for one year.

Agenda for the NMC Meeting on 3 December 1992

3.4 Use of NBTS as an HIV Testing Service

It was felt that more HIV testing services outside the NBTS should be available, as people may be reluctant to attend GUM Clinics. Then a letter from the CMO informing doctors about the available facilities and discouraging the use of the NBTS as a testing service, should be sent out.

3.5 HBV Vaccination for BTS Staff

A national policy is required because of the varying practices at BTCs. If vaccination is recommended, the Centres should be advised how funding will be provided. Recommendations should also be made nationally about follow-up testing and 'booster' vaccination.

5. Minutes of the U.K. Transfusion Transmitted Diseases Committee
Held on 3 September 1992

Members expressed concern about the outbreak of Hepatitis A following the use of products from Octapharma produced at three different plants.

6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Provision of Donors Committee

Dr Harrison mentioned the use of 18th birthday cards to encourage donor recruitment. There has so far been a good response in the N.E. Thames Region. Other Centres will monitor the response to these cards and report back.

Braille Cards

Copies of donor disclaimer boards and AIDS information in Braille should be available at each donor session. These can be made in Bristol at a cost of about £30 per Centre.

Members were amazed that South Western Region could produce copies of a video for only 75p each.

7. NBTS/CBLA Liaison Committee

3.5 Anti-Hepatitis A Plasma

Dr Mary Brennan reported that the specification set by BPL for anti-Hepatitis A plasma is too high. Only 7% of North London donors would be eligible at the minimum level of 50 iu per ml.

3.6 Strategic Reserve of anti-vaccinia Immunoglobulin

Colonel Thomas wished to know for whom this immunoglobulin was reserved, as he understood that only Birmingham hold smallpox virus for research purposes.

9. Proposal from COBE

The general feeling was that COBE machines are not suitable for large scale collection of platelets, but that they are valuable for high dose collection of e.g. HLA matched platelets or for plasma exchange.

5). Any Other Business

The future of the Eastern Division was discussed. It was decided that even if the meeting had no executive function in future, meetings of Consultants should continue. Professional medical matters will be discussed and medical audit undertaken.

6). Date of Next Meeting

The date of 21 January 1993 was proposed. This was subsequently revised to Thursday, 28 January 1993 at 10.30am at Colindale BTS.