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NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE NBTS

NBTS/SNBTS Liaison Committee

Notes of the 3rd meeting held on Monday 7th January 1991, in Manchester at 11.00 a.m.

Present: Dr. H.H. Gunson (Chairman)
Professor J.D. Cash
Dr. R.J. Moore

1. Apologies for absence - Mr. D.B. McIntosh
2. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were amended so that para 3.4 (a) now reads "NBTS are in the process of revising their [AIDS] leaflet and any new version will need EAGA approval".

3. Matters arising

3.1 Serum for national HBsAg positive standard

NIBSC intend to supply HBsAg working standard free of charge for 1991/92. However they need about 15 litres of serum (not plasma or recalcified plasma) per year to use as a diluent for the HBsAg positive donations they have already obtained from N.W. Thames. It was agreed that all centres in England and Wales excluding N.W. Thames would be asked to provide 1 litre and Scotland would provide 2 litres.

Action - Dr. Gunson &
Professor Cash

4. Plasticisers in blood bags

Dr. Boulton had enquired about the use of plasticisers in blood bags. It was agreed that Baxters should be contacted to follow-up progress on the work they had already presented on new plasticiser materials.

5. Manufacturers Licences (Specials)

NBTS are awaiting full details describing how to apply for a Manufacturers Licence (Specials) from the Medicines Control Agency. SNBTS and NBTS will co-ordinate on the timing of applications.

Action - Dr. Moore &
Professor Cash

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6. AIDS leaflet

The NBTS Directorate have produced a draft rationale for a revised AIDS leaflet. It was agreed that the most effective route for refining this revision was to channel it through Dr. Wagstaff's Standing Committee on the Medical Acceptance of Blood Donors. They would be asked to produce an expert rationale which would then need to be shown to EAGA.

To take forward the implementation of the rationale and translate it into actions and words suitable for donors it was agreed to consider setting up a new group with NBTS and SNBTS representation and including national donor services representatives as well as medics. This group would continue to exist beyond the AIDS leaflet to promote commonality of donor questioning, application of deferral criteria etc.

Action - Dr. Gunson &
Professor Cash

7. Anti-HCV testing

7.1 No decision has been taken by DH on the implementation or funding of the test. It will be important for RTCs to start testing on an agreed date.

7.2 The use of plasma for repeatable HCV positive donations which are RIBA negative and PCR negative for fractionation is under discussion. It was agreed to find out the practice in other countries. J.C. in Europe and Australia, H.G. in USA.

Action - Dr. Gunson &
Professor Cash

8. BPL plasma recall incident

The revised specification circulated for adoption in England and Wales is in line with the standing procedures adopted in the SNBTS for similar incidents.

9. Rh-negative blood donor labels

SNBTS had inadvertently missed out on the consultation within NBTS which had preceded the decision to implement Rh negative labelling in England and Wales. Martin Bruce has been asked to review current practice within SNBTS before drafting a policy for implementation in Scotland.

10. Charges to the private sector

DH have agreed changes from April 1st 1991 because of budget devolution to users. RTCs in England and Wales will enter into service agreements with private hospitals in their catchment area in the same way as the NHS hospitals.

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Handling charges will therefore vary from Region to Region. DH will not produce average charges and SNBTS will therefore need to derive its own handling charges for 1991/92.

11. Any other business

11.1 Bar code working party

The bar code working party has been asked to review its membership and programme of work to encompass projected changes in the bar codes used within the NBTS and BPL.

11.2 Reinstatement of unconfirmed HIV positive donors

Dr. Wagstaff's Standing Committee on the Medical Acceptance of Blood Donors should be asked to review policy for these donors.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting to held at the SNBTS on Friday 12th April to be rearranged.

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