

SACBC / Red  
Book Exec  
(Needs an SACBC  
number)

## ITEMS FROM SACBC FOR RED BOOK EXECUTIVE OCTOBER 1999

SAC on Blood  
Components  
**L269**

### 1. Proposal for a Working Party on Blood Bags.

The background to this proposal is that there are a number of pressing issues affecting both the physical requirements for blood packs and the way they are labelled. These include:-

1. Identification of incompatibility between new packs introduced in UKTS and commonly used giving sets. Problems have included puncture of the pack by the giving set spike, and difficulty in removing the giving set to set up subsequent units.
2. Consideration of a new European standard for blood bags. For the first time, the BSI wishes to adopt this as the British Standard. We have the opportunity to feed into the relevant BSI technical group, as Martin Bruce is a member.
3. Proposals for a new base label have been discussed.
4. Fundamental changes to donation number and component labelling will arise through implementation of ISBT 128. This is primarily being dealt with through SACIT, and this working party would have to have cross-representation from SACIT.
5. Guidelines for suspected bacterial transmission recommend sampling from pack residues –it would be as well to review current practice and recommendations for pack holding and disposal post-transfusion.

As these issues are common to all 4 UKTS, SACBC feel that a temporary Working Party on 'Life Cycle of Blood Containers' should be convened, reporting to SACBC, to ensure that these issues are covered in a co-ordinated way for the next edition of the Red Book. Formal Terms of Reference are being developed, and will be tabled at the meeting. We have provisionally identified Richard Bedford as a suitable chair for this group. The Executive is asked to ratify establishment of this group.

### 2. Granulocyte transfusion

The current Red Book contains a specification for granulocytes collected by apheresis without G-CSF mobilisation. SACBC are aware that trials of G-CSF-mobilised granulocytes are ongoing and have agreed that a specification for this component should await completion of this trial. However, the Working Party considering this issue has in the process developed helpful guidelines for granulocyte collection in general, which could be applied currently to any centre collecting non-mobilised cells. The Executive is asked to advise whether these should be added to the relevant section of the next Edition of the Red Book.

### 3. Leucocyte depleted frozen components

The date for implementation of manufacture of L/D components agreed with DoH is 1<sup>st</sup> November 1999. It is recognised that frozen components in stock at that time may not be L/D, and DoH has been advised that an immediate swap is not possible because of the need to maintain high stocks through the millennium period. It was hoped that a common date for universal availability of frozen L/D components could be agreed by the 4 UKTS. However, this is now not a possibility, as SNBTS will combine exchange of NAT tested/L/D FFP this autumn, whereas NBS, having completed the NAT exchange, wish to defer the L/D exchange till early 2000. The Welsh Service is able to implement L/D FFP at any time, but obtains its cryo from NBS. I am unclear as to the current position in Northern Ireland. All 4 services will be supplying L/D frozen components by the time the next edition of the Red Book is issued. The Executive is asked to note this disparity in practice during the transition period.

Lorna Williamson 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1999

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