

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE  
NORTH WEST REGIONAL TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Microsoft Teams**

---

**Present (33)**

Craig Carroll – Chair (CC)

Dr Allameddine

Sanchia Baines

Pete Baker

Jo Bark (JB)

Lydia Baxter

Matt Bend

Sarah Brookes

Nauman Butt

Mark Caswell

Emma Copperwaite

Karen Farrar

Amanda Gould

Rukhsana Hashmat

Louise Hodgkinson

Peter Hudson

Helen Hughes

Gillian Lewis

Jill Livingstone

Louise McCreery

Helen McNamara

Emma Milser

Carmel Parker

Jayne Peters

Debbie Seals

Dave Simcox

Vikram Singh

Mark Summerton

Vicky Tuckley

Jane Uttley

Val Wallace

Rachael Williams

Salford Royal Hospital

Pennine Acute NHS Trust

Royal Preston Hospital

RLBUHT

NHSBT

Salford Royal Hospital

NHSBT

ELHT

Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

Alder Hey Children's Hospital

MFT

Royal Bolton Hospital

Macclesfield District General Hospital

NHSBT

Countess of Chester Hospital

Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Whiston Hospital

Tameside General Hospital

UHMBT

Royal Albert Edward Hospital

Liverpool Women's Hospital

SHOT

MFT

NHSBT / MFT

The Christie Hospital

RLBUHT

Aintree University Hospital

Tameside General Hospital

SHOT

Pennine Acute NHS Trust

LHCH

UHMBT

## **Minutes**

Jane Murphy (JM)

NHSBT

## **Apologies (10)**

Caroline Holt  
Tracy Johnson  
Rajan Mohan  
Nigel Nelson  
Freddy Oscar  
Tracey Shackleton  
Mary Sokolowski

Tameside General Hospital  
ELHT  
ELHT  
MBHT  
RLBUHT  
Alder Hey Children's Hospital  
ELHT

## **Actions**

Item no.	Original Meeting/Date	Action	Owner	Status
2	RTC 15/05/20	Minutes from RTC meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 to be posted on website	JM	Completed
4	RTC 15/05/20	Feedback to be provided on the comments raised from the Convalescent Plasma trials team	JP	Completed
5	RTC 15/05/20	Contact Dean Neill to ask if he has any information or slides to share with members	JB	Completed
8	RTC 15/05/20	Following documents to be sent out to HTT's; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NBTC guidance and triage tool for MH in severe blood shortage</li><li>Clinical guide for the management of major trauma patients during the coronavirus pandemic</li></ul>	JM	Completed

**1. Welcome & Housekeeping**

Craig Carroll welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining.

Due to current circumstances, the RTC decided to hold the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

CC / JM advised members of the process of how the meeting would run.

**2. Minutes of RTC Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

**Action:** To be changed to confirmed on website. (JM)

Action list all completed.

**3. NBTC & RTC Chair's Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Craig Carroll attended these meetings virtually.

This meeting was at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic and the agenda was completely overtaken by this.

NHSBT / NBTC has already put in a lot of work with regards to planning and the Convalescent Plasma trials that were all ready to go following the government allocation of funds.

Discussed:

- Issue regarding triage process for major haemorrhage if we enter the red zone of emergency blood stocks.
- The amber and red major haemorrhage activation protocols. Documents of which have been sent out to Trusts.
- Strategy processes of the cascade of information and how this was acted upon.

Nothing else of immediate importance was raised / discussed.

A copy of the minutes from these meetings are available by contacting Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator [jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

**4. Convalescent Plasma**

Jayne Peters delivered a presentation on Convalescent Plasma. Jayne advised that she is not part of the NHSBT team who are performing the trials. However, can talk through some of the experiences in setting up the trials.

Jayne's presentation covered:-

- What is Convalescent Plasma?
- Is it safe?
- Does it work?
- Current trials

The following comments were raised:-

Why was it decided that it would only be patients admitted to ITU within 48 hours who could be randomised, as a number of patients with a longer stay on the ITU could have potentially benefitted from this treatment

Numerous comments around the laboratories being left out of notification and planning on their sites, many laboratory managers and transfusion practitioners found out they were opening very late in the process.

**Action:** Feedback to be provided on the above comments from the Convalescent Plasma trials team. **(JP)**

This presentation is available by contacting Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator [jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

### 5. Challenges of Blood Supply

Unfortunately, Dean Neill was unable to join the meeting.

**Action:** Contact Dean Neill to ask if he has any information or slides to share with members. **(JB)**

Jayne Peters added that blood supply is stable at present. Currently, a team is working to match the current collections and demands. However, there is a concern if NHSBT don't know when Trusts elective surgeries are to re-start. Trusts to feedback any intelligence about what is going on in their Trusts.

### 6. Blood Conservation Strategies

Prior to the meeting HTC's were asked to feedback on the following questions:-

- 1) Has your Emergency Blood Management policy been reviewed since the COVID-19 outbreak? Are all staff aware of AMBER/RED actions should they occur? Has the NBTC Triage of MH patients during severe blood shortages document been escalated throughout your Trust?
- 2) What impact has there been on pre-op anaemia/ IV iron services? And have any measures been successful in protecting the service?
- 3) Have any additional PBM measures been taken to conserve blood stocks (e.g. ICS, promotion of single unit and review)?
- 4) Has your Trust informed NHSBT of any recovery plans for elective surgery/services which will impact of blood component demand?

Trusts responses were collated and discussed.

### 7. Regional Blood Stocks Management System Data

Presentation given by Matt Bend from Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS).

Matt highlighted 2 publications that are produced by BSMS:-

- Regional O Neg report – produced monthly
- Red cell / platelet / plasma top level snapshot report on issues / wastage – produced quarterly

Matt's presentation focused on the "2018 NBTC O D Neg Audit & O D Neg use in the NW RTC".

## North West Regional Transfusion Committee

Also discussed:-

- National RBC Wastage
- National Platelet Wastage
- NW RBC Issues & Wastage
- NW RTC Platelet Issues & Wastage
- The COVID-19 Impact

This presentation is available by contacting Jane Murphy, NW RTC Administrator  
[jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.murphy@nhsbt.nhs.uk)

### 8. AOB

#### UK NEQAS

Pete Baker advised annual meeting is to be cancelled. However, looking to arrange a webinar to give updates which will hopefully be educational as well.

#### MH Audit

Usually the regional audit is carried out every 2 years around April time. Jayne Peters and Jo Bark have decided it was not appropriate to carry this out due to reduction in potential MH cases. However, they will look to carry out the audit late summer as activity starts to pick up. The audit is required as this needs to be feedback to the Trauma networks.

#### Documents

Craig Carroll asked for the following documents to be sent out:-

- NBTC guidance and triage tool for MH in severe blood shortage
- Clinical guide for the management of major trauma patients during the coronavirus pandemic

**Action:** Above documents to be sent out to HTT's. (JM)

### 9. Evaluation Form

#### Evaluation Form

Feedback is vital from members who attend RTC meetings as this helps plan and support future meetings. Members were asked to complete an online evaluation which was sent out following the meeting.

The results of the evaluations were as follows:

- Completion rate of forms – 42%
- Good feedback received – 100% would recommend this meeting
- Future virtual meetings – 86% in favour
- All top box results 90% or over

### 10. Papers for Information

#### RTC Budget

Jane Murphy produced a report which provided an update and detailed the expenditure for the NW RTC budget for the financial year 2019-20.

#### NW RTC Education Event

Event scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Haydock Park Racecourse, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside WA12 0HQ. However, if current restrictions are in place this will not be able to take place. More details to follow in due course.

**12. Date of next RTC Meeting**

Scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 12pm – 4pm at NHSBT, Liverpool Blood Centre – to be confirmed.