DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NBTC’s EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG)

Monday, 18 January 2021

13:00 – 15:00

Online/MS Teams

Members:

Prof Cheng Hock Toh  Chair, NBTC
Dr Jon Cort  Deputy Chair, NBTC
Mrs Catherine Howell  Chief Nurse Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services, NHSBT
Dr Shruthi Narayan  Medical Director, SHOT
Mrs Louise Sherliker  National Lead: Patient Blood Management Team, NHSBT
Dr Youssef Sorour  Chair, RTC Chairs
Ms Julie Staves  Chair, Transfusion Laboratory Managers Working Group

Invited Attendees:

Ms Jackie McMahon  RTC Administrator, South West, Observer
Dr Falguni Choksey  RTC Chair, West Midlands
Ms Jeni Davies  SHOT Operations Manager, Observer
Dr Lise Estcourt  Consultant Haematologist
Mr Al Hunter  Frozen Component Manager, NHSBT
Mr Chris Philips  Head of Hospital Customer Services NHSBT
Mr Mark Taylor  Assistant Finance Director - Planning & Performance, NHSBT
Ms Kairen Coffey  National Operations Manager – PBM NHSBT

Apologies:

Dr Shubha Allard  Secretary, NBTC
Ms Angela Douglas  Deputy Chief Scientific Officer and NHSE Rep
Ms Gail Miflin  Chief Medical Officer and Director of Clinical Services, NHSBT

AGENDA

01/21  Executive Working Group meeting held on 22 June 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2020 were agreed as a true record with all actions completed.

02/21  Transfusion 2024
• CH explained that since the recommendations have been published that there is currently no statistical data monitoring progress/uptake.
• CH is however waiting from some data to confirm level of social media engagement.
• CH extended thanks to the PBM Team for their hard work and input.
• Delivery will be addressed involving the setting up of a change programmed supported by NHSBT with various comms involved. Plan to be agreed

Jon Cort gave overview NBTC & NHSBT Digital/IT group – adding that the proposal requires some fine tuning and that everyone is keen to see this initiative succeed but all must be mindful of priorities during the Covid pandemic.

### 03/21 Brexit Planning Summary

Overview presented by Chris Philips.
- Formal position statements-aimed at assuring hospitals of NHSBT’s state of readiness and ability to maintain supply and services from 1st January 2021. These communications require DHSC ministerial sign off. The latest statement was issued on 8 December 2020 and is published on the website.

- NHSBT are a critical supplier and we are able to supply all components. We have explored potential issues with congestion affecting movement of blood components and mitigation plans are in place.

- Discussions took place around the viability of night deliveries. Questions were raised of the suitability of night laboratory staff and whether they are qualified to receive out of hours deliveries or whether training is necessary.

### 04/21 RTC re-alignment to NHSE regions

Draft paper by Louise Sherliker, Shubha Allard, Youssef Sorour and Jon Cort.

- The aim is to move from the current position of 10 RTC regions to 7 regions by April 2022.
- JC commented on how the changes will affect some regions more than others for example the Midlands region. There were still some mixed responses to the changes.
- YS had experienced some concern in the North East but stated that the explanatory paper will certainly help.
- YS noted that the resignation of the NE RTC chair has also affected morale in the region and hope this would soon be resolved.
• The pandemic has positively proved that virtual meetings are very much a viable option with greater engagement in some cases and this has to be seen as a positive step in helping move the realignment forward.
• It was agreed to provide as much information as possible and to involve regional discussions at each stage of the realignment process as it was noted that each region will have its own changes and challenges to work through.
• Regional budgets will remain aligned to the current 10 RTC regions until April 2022.

05/21 Blood Demand and supply

O neg and Blood Demand and supply update from Louise Sherliker.

Key Messages
- Forecasting blood component demand remains a challenge but collaborative work across the NBTC groups has provided valuable information to support demand predictions. In particular the weekly calls that now occur with the national TLM group headed up by Julie Staves
- Red cell demand during the pandemic second wave is different from the first wave.
- O D negative red cell demand remains strong. The impact of COVID on specific donor bases may provide future supply challenges. - unknown at present
- NHSBT has worked hard to maintain good stocks and avoid shortages - a big thank you to our donors and our hospital colleagues

06/21 COVID-19 convalescent plasma trials

- LE confirmed that Recovery trial has been paused for the time being as convalescent plasma is of little benefit to critically ill patients.
- Whilst disappointing news the Recovery trial recruited 12K donors involving 226 participating hospitals in the UK – most hospitals.
- Convalescent plasma is currently being trialled on specific subgroups. More information will be shared as soon as possible.

### 07/21 NHSBT re-organisation and strategy

- CHT provided an update as Gail Miflin was unable to join the meeting.
- The recruitment of a Medical Director for Transfusion within NHSBT will be an exciting catalyst to drive Transfusion 2024 forward with interviews taking place on 23 February.
- A vacancy has arisen for a Director of Pathology too. - more information will be shared in due course.

### 08/21 Budget

- LS provided and update of the budgets noting a £30K underspend on the Regional RTC admin/audit team budget.
- CH added that we are currently in the process of a budget build for April 2021/22 and this will be available shortly.

### 09/21 National Commissioning Group (NCG)

Blood pricing and contract. Mark Taylor, Assistant Finance Director - Planning & Performance NHSBT updated on the current situation.

- Collections before Christmas were adversely affected by the weather and sickness.
- A webinar is scheduled for February before seeking final pricing approval.
- Block contracts are to continue into Q4 and the DHC will advise on the continuation of these.
- Hard to predict what contracting will look like in April 2021 although disruption is expected to continue until then.
- One idea is for fixed costs and variable costs charged on actual usage.
- Block contracts will continue until 31st March 2021 and then, from 1st April 2021 a fixed and variable agreement will be implemented.
- The aim is to keep a close eye on fixed and variable demand and adjust accordingly.
- The idea is to implement a consultative approach, Q&A then approach DHC.

[https://hospital.blood.co.uk/components/portfolio-and-prices/](https://hospital.blood.co.uk/components/portfolio-and-prices/)
### 10/21 Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT)

- Shruthi Narayan updated that Dr Sharran Grey, the SHOT TACO chapter expert and member of the pulmonary complications SHOT WEG, has been awarded an OBE in the 2021 New Year Honours for Services to Blood Transfusion and Patient Care.
- The SHOT App was launched in Oct 2020 which can be downloaded on iPhone and Android phones and allows easy access to all resources on the SHOT website.
- SHOT have successfully hosted a number of webinars and these have been extremely well attended with good feedback. The plan is to host more of these this year.

### 11/21 NBTC's Transfusion Laboratory Managers Working Group (TLM)

Julie Staves updated confirming:

**Focus:**
- Group are focused on supporting Hospital Laboratories through the COVID pandemic
- Supporting NHSBT in demand planning going forward.
- She stated the weekly calls and collaboration with NHST had been extremely successful

**Activities:**
- Weekly video calls with NHSBT demand planning
- Joint communications have been circulated to aid with Blood Stock Management
- Survey of Transfusion Laboratories to determine the extent of the issue of having inspections by both UKAS and MHRA
- Set of Senior laboratory staff competencies signed off and circulated

### 12/21 Date of next meeting

21 June 2021