

## Confirmed Minutes of the EXTENDED MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSFUSION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Monday, 24 September 2018

### Ambassadors Bloomsbury

#### Present:

Dr Youssef Sorour	YS	Chair and Y&H RTC
Dr Shubha Allard	SA	Secretary, NBTC
Ms Celina Bernstrom	CBe	EA to the NBTC
Dr Jon Cort	JC	East Midlands RTC
Dr Alistair Dodds	AD	North East RTC
Dr Nicola Jones	NJ	East of England RTC
Dr Phil Kelly	PK	London RTC
Dr Chris Newson	CN	West Midlands RTC
Dr Nigel Sargent	NS	South Central RTC
Ms Louise Sherliker	LS	National Lead: PBM Team
Dr Howard Wakeling	HW	South East Coast RTC
Dr Jonathan Wallis	JW	NBTC Chair
Dr Sarah Wexler	SW	South West RTC



#### Apologies:


Dr Craig Carroll	CC	North West RTC
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#### In attendance:




Prof Mike Murphy	MM	Consultant Haematologist
Dr Sue Cotton	SC	Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS)



<b>RTC 08/18</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions, Apologies</b>
	The Chair opened the meeting confirming that Dr Sue Cotton (SC) is joining for her item scheduled for 11:30.
<b>RTC 09/18</b>	<b>Minutes of the RTC Chairs Meeting – 19 March 2018</b>
	The minutes of the RTC Chairs Business meeting on 19 March were agreed as a true record.
<b>RTC 10/18</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>
	Louise Sherliker (LS) confirmed that the JPAC website is in the

	process of being amended and updated and good progress has been made.
<b>RTC 11/18</b>	<b>Review and discussion of the RTC reports</b>
	<u>East Midlands RTC – Jon Cort (JC)</u>
	 Paper B1 - EM RTC Chairs Report JC.docx
	JC confirmed excellent attendance at Education days with positive feedback.
	<b>BBTS Qualification for TPs</b>  This was discussed during the RTT and RTC, however the cost is approximately £891.00 to study qualification and poor uptake from TPs due to no funding from trusts. Training needs for TPs needs to be included in discussion at Transfusion 2024 on 26 March 2019. Jonathan Wallis, (JW), NBTC Chair expressed concerns about courses becoming oversubscribed.
	Louise Sherliker (LS) is seeking funding for Education Days specifically for Transfusion Practitioners with an emphasis on leadership.
	Spaces are to be advertised through BBTS website.
	Problems with low morale noted in South Central RTC due to time constraints. Shubha Allard (SA), Secretary, NBTC noted Hospital resources for PBM and challenges faced by Hospital TX laboratories are included for discussion in the Transfusion 2024 Symposium. . JW added that a key output for Transfusion 2024 is to maintain and support the TP role with more structure.
	<u>Yorkshire &amp; The Humber RTC – Youssef Sorour (YS)</u>
	 Paper B2 - Y and H RTC Chairs Report YS.
	There is a push for collaboration of audits.
	The issue of Anti-D was explored. Advice seems contradictory on some cases around determining passive vs immune Anti D on antibody screens post prophylaxis
	YS to contact Edwin Massey to discuss and clarify.

	<b>Action: YS</b>
	<u>Constraints &amp; concerns:</u>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Laboratory staffing</li> <li>2. Trust wide on-going increased general clinical work load and excessive patient through put over the past few months is affecting staff morale and availability/compliance to attend training and/or education sessions.</li> <li>3. National campaigns - do senior management staff get made aware of information as support required in the hospitals to promote campaign</li> <li>4. General concern about difficulty in recruiting suitably experienced transfusion BMS staff at band 6/7 level. Is this a local issue or is there a wider problem</li> </ol>
	<u>London RTC – Phil Kelly (PK)</u>
	 <p>Paper B3 - L RTC Chairs Report PK.pdf</p>
	Pressure on staff to attend RTT and it is hard to engage new people.
	<u>Constrains and concerns:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfusion Laboratory Managers (TLMs) are finding it incredibly difficult to find the time to attend NHSBT meetings/ education events due to work constraints. Staff shortages are a significant factor, TLMs have limited capacity for time out of the laboratory or to contribute to regional working group activity. The RTT has asked whether the NBTC would consider a communication to Trusts and/or Pathology Service providers, emphasising the value of engagement with/ attendance at user group meetings.</li> <li>• The constraints with the JPAC website, i.e. formatting and easy navigation is still an issue for us and, therefore, our RTT Committee has asked that this continues to be raised.</li> <li>• The RTT has noted the search function on the NHSBT Hospitals and Science website does not effectively generate links to website content.</li> </ul>
	Raised by Chair of London TP Group – Arising from telecon meeting with TP group chairs from other regions organised by London TP group Chair: Could funding be made available for a national TP annual meeting or education day. NBTC budget is being squeezed. The NBTC Education Working group seeking HEE funding to support TP and midwifery education.
	There was a general agreement that the NBTC would benefit from a TP working group in addition to the Transfusion Laboratory Managers

	Working Group already in existence. Further discussion needed with TPs to scope.
	<b>Action: LS to explore</b>
	JW confirmed frustrations within BBTS who are keen to have TPs attend meetings and as members but are struggling to get engagement.
	<u>South East Coast region – Howard Wakeling (HW)</u>
	 <p>Paper B4 - SEC RTC Chairs Report HW.pdf</p>
	Concerns over budget reduction. LS confirmed blanket 15% reduction in budgets due to reduction in blood use. RTC Administrator roles may be affected although steps would be taken to avoid this.
	HW identified gaps in training as staff are not qualified to take blood specifically.
	<u>Constraints and concerns:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor attendance at the Laboratory Manager User Group (TADG) – is this a national problem?</li> <li>• Continued lack of time and shortage of staff in laboratories</li> <li>• Loss of collective knowledge, experienced staff retiring</li> <li>• Reduction in RTT membership</li> <li>• 2019/2020 Budget - potential reduction</li> </ul>
	<u>North East RTC – Allistair Dodds (AD)</u>
	 <p>Paper B5 - NE RTC Chairs report AD.pdf</p>
	<u>Constraints and concerns:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant TP posts across the region. Some seconded posts filled but still in recruitment process. Varying degrees of experience. NUTH requested issue be placed on Trust risk register</li> <li>• Concern raised at NE Hospital Stock Management Group that there are clinical barriers to new initiatives around blood conservation that need senior clinician engagement to progress.</li> </ul>
	Bug in LIMS system had been noted.

	Pressure felt from MHRA. JW wants to see MHRA and other inspectorates such as UKAS to unify.
	<u>South Central RTC – Nigel Sargant (NS)</u>
	 <p>Paper B6 - SC RTC Chairs Report NS.pdf</p>
	<u>Constraints and concerns:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Continued lack of time and shortage of staff in laboratories</li> <li>o Meeting attendance concerns for one of the two TLM user groups in the region. Historically this user group have met three times a year, this has now reduced to two. Poor attendance is attributed to difficulties in staff being released and current meeting location. A different venue in Birmingham with better transport links is to be trialled in December.</li> <li>o Maintaining UKAS accreditation and MHRA standards as the two organisations are asking for increasingly different QMS actions</li> <li>o NCA reports delay with receiving the report on the TACO Audit</li> <li>o Results from AFFINITIE programme not received yet</li> </ul>
	NS reviewed the concerns of the region.
	<u>East of England RTC – Nicola Jones (NJ)</u>
	 <p>Paper B7 - EoE RTC Chairs Report NJ.pdf</p>
	<u>Constraints and concerns:</u>
	Short staffing in laboratories remains the major issue. The snapshot survey has provided statistics to highlight the severity of the problem.
	Only 1/3 of hospitals are adequately staffed on a Monday morning.
	NJ concerned that their RTC Administrator Jane Murphy is retiring and will be missed.
	<u>South West RTC – Sarah Wexler (SW)</u>
	 <p>Paper B8 - SW RTC Chairs Report SW.pdf</p>

	SW RTC is pleased to report it has 2 patient representatives in place and a further one interested.
	No RTC secretary since Dr Birchall left NHSBT post December 2017.
	There has been a negative response to NCA audits.
	<u>West Midlands RTC – Chris Newson (CN)</u>
	 Paper B9 - WM RTC Chairs Report CN.pdf
	JC confirmed that Burton Hospital have abandoned their cell salvage programme. LS expressed an interest in linking and increasing overlap to share ideas. West Midlands cell salvage group meet twice per year. Issues with consent likely when moving patients to another hospital.
	A new RTC New Chair - Dr Falguni Choksey, Consultant Haematologist at UHCW, would be “thanked and formally welcomed” to the meeting on 01 November 2018 at Shrewsbury Hospital.
	<u>North West RTC – Craig Carroll (CC)</u>
	 Paper B10 - NW RTC Chairs Report CC.pdf
	Apologies were received from CC.
	<u>Constraints and concerns:</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact the amalgamation of Trusts across the region is having on the Blood Transfusion Service.</li> <li>• Some hospitals still advocate manual exchange for sickle cell patients.</li> </ul>
<b>RTC 12/18</b>	<b>PBM Accreditation – Professor Mike Murphy (MM)</b>
	MM presented on behalf of James Uprichard, Chair of the PBM Accreditation Working Group.
	MM highlighted success of AABB accreditation programme. However, setting one up is expensive and arduous and after a series of meetings, It was agreed by
	the PBM Accreditation Working Group to include key questions as part of the forthcoming PBM Survey on compliance with NICE Quality Standards. Feedback comments to <a href="mailto:Celina.Bernstrom@nhsbt.nhs.uk">Celina.Bernstrom@nhsbt.nhs.uk</a>

	for Mike Murphy/James Uprichard by Thursday, 18 October.
	<b>Action: All</b>
	JC asked if this is linked to NICE and if the lines of responsibility and accountability should go to the head of each Trust.  It was clarified that the survey questions and any data collection is linked to NICE Guidance and NICE Quality Standards. The results will be circulated to senior management as well as Hospital Transfusion teams.
	A further discussion followed on output from Transfusion 2024. SA confirmed engagement Prof Keith Willett NHS England and JC agreed that having the strategy symposium and any recommendations endorsed by NHS England would be helpful for promoting implementation by RTC Chairs. All agreed NHS England need to back these initiatives.
	MM confirmed that it is unlikely these will be mandated as National Standards but guidance will still be useful.
<b>RTC 13/18</b>	<b>Blood Stock Management Scheme (BSMS) @ 12.00</b>
	Sue Cotton provided an overview.
	A voluntary Blood Stocks Management Scheme (BSMS) was piloted in 2001 in England with a view to understanding the blood supply chain. Data transparency introduced in 2009 means we can look at other hospitals' data.
	239 participating hospitals and manual data entry means reports can be developed for stakeholders.
	<b>Roadshows 2018</b> - 2 Roadshows and a mini roadshow with approx.125 delegates, 95% of which rated the events as excellent/good.
	<b>Visits to hospitals</b> BSMS acting in consulting capacity to discuss appropriate stockholding.
	<b>Work with Cranfield University</b> Routing options for a centralised stock sharing system
	MM/SA impressed with the work carried out and would like to see more of the same.
	Issues are encountered with changes of staff. Other hospitals do not have VMI. Louise Sherliker (LS) confirmed that a paper is being

	written for the forthcoming EWG on this in January. The LIMS systems/IT in general create barriers against progress.
	SC noted that high level engagement supporting roadshows was noted. There was additional engagement from private hospitals.
<b>RTC 14/18</b>	<b>Regional Transfusion Committee (RTC) Terms of Reference (ToR) for JPAC website</b>
	RTC Terms of reference are generic. Discussions took place on whether more detail is need. JC stated that customising region to region will cause problems particularly if stipulating members.
	The general feeling was that a generic set of Terms of Reference (ToR) should exist to cover all regions.
<b>RTC 15/18</b>	<b>RTC Audit Update</b>
	YS gave overview of a paper noting that Health Foundation Q Initiative (RTC audit manager is a Q member) could be eligible for some funding. Information can be found on the Health Foundation website. This is aligned to NHSi and is a valuable resource.
<b>RTC 16/18</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	Audit/re-audit priorities is being collated by Celina Bernstrom for Lise Estcourt to inform the National Comparative Audit program
	JC wanted confirmation of who decides what becomes a CQUIN. Can we offer to the Department of Health to decrease the money in the system by CQUIN'ising. The Anaemia working group are aiming for a CQUIN on Anaemia Management and a clear business proposal is needed.
	JW confirmed that there is a 'PBM next steps' section of the programme for Transfusion 2024 where specific outcomes will be discussed.
<b>RTC 20/18</b>	<b>Date of next Meeting</b>
	<b>26 March 2019</b>
	Transfusion 2024 - A 5-year strategy for clinical and laboratory transfusion practice
	<b>30 September 2019 – VENUE TBC</b>
	NBTC/RTC Chairs