London Regional Transfusion Committee
London Blood Transfusion Forum
(Business Meeting)
25th October 2013
76 Portland Place, London
Confirmed MINUTES

Present:

Gavin Cho (Chair) North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Lynn Abbott Croydon University Hospital
Abdul Adamu Whittington Health NHS Trust
Suresh Adandakrishnan Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Maria Lotus Aquino Whittington Health NHS Trust
Beverly Astley University College Hospital
Lisa Baldry Great Ormond Street
Kate Blightman University College Hospital
Grant Brown London Independent Hospital
Sarah Carr St Georges Hospital
Etain Clarke Royal Free Hospital
Ben Clevenger Royal Free Hospital
Sue Cole Princess Royal University Hospital
Judy Cotterill Royal Brompton Hospital
Camilla Davies St Thomas’ Hospital
Lisa Edwards Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Ann Marie Ellis Royal Free Hospital
Gill Ferrington Ashtead Hospital
Kelly Feane St Georges Hospital
Fernando Fegarido Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals
Pamela Gundawakuru Whittington Health NHS Trust
Adrienne Harper Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Natasha Henry St Mary’s Hospital
Laura Hunter St Thomas’ Hospital
Rasmi Ibrahim Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Lyra Javier London Independent Hospital
Amanda Joseph Kingston Hospital
Arturo Ledesma BUPA Cromwell Road
Simon Liu Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Tim Maggs Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Ellie Mc Aree Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Isabel Mendez Alonso BUPA Cromwell Road
Maureen McBrearty University College Hospital
Joe Nanuck Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Lloyd Noble Charing Cross Hospital
Kelly Nwantiki Kings College Hospital
Emily Okukenu Barts Health NHS Trust
Abi Omojola Hillingdon Hospital
Stephen Park Whittington Health NHS Trust
Rebecca Patel North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
Sally Procter NHSBT
Mark Reed BCU Birmingham
Tollene Reilly Royal Brompton Hospital
Susan Robinson Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital
Elizabeth Salgado Royal Free Hospital
Alison Sanders Charing Cross Hospital

London RTC Minutes 25.10.2013
Apologies had been received from Carol Cantwell, Anna Li, Diane Monroe, Tom Thompson, Brian Robertson, Shalinee Wickramasinghe.

**Welcome and Introductions**

GC welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present of the health and safety requirements for the building. GC thanked the sponsors.

**Minutes and Actions of the Last Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on 22nd May 2013 were accepted by those present as an accurate record. If there are any amendments could they please be sent to Sue Wood (SaW) for incorporation. 

**Action:** Any amendments to the minutes to be emailed to Sue Wood and minutes to be put on RTC Website – SW

All actions from these minutes had been completed. Action relating to the Regional Transfusion Team to contact CQC was discussed. Following a change in clarification form the CQC in August an e-mail was sent to RTC members to inform them of the change.

**NBTC & RTC Chairs Feedback**

**NBTC meeting feedback**

Gavin Cho gave an update following the NBTC and RTC chairs meeting in October 2013. Topics discussed at the NBTC meeting were as follows:

NBTC Education Working group formed to ensure transfusion training is delivered to all medical staff. A survey showed that the foundation training for newly qualified Dr’s could be improved.

Patient Information Working Group is making good progress with the Patient Information Leaflets but the challenge to ensure these get to patients is still on going. A National Comparative Audit on Consent is planned for early next year.

NPSA/SPN14 Review Group has had a meeting with representation from all RTC regions. It has been suggested that there should be a one off practical competency assessment followed by three yearly update training with knowledge based training so staff know what and why they do what they do. This training can be delivered in a way suitable to the Trust/organisations training policy. GC reported that SHOT reports show that people making errors are usually competency trained.

SHOT reports. There were 6 deaths related to transfusion reported in 2012. One related to a GvHD case from a maternal blood transfusion. SHOT will push for a zero tolerance for all pathology samples.
PBM Survey was sent to all Trusts in the country to get a baseline. The initial results are being collated and were reported at the meeting. There was a good response rate. Results will give us scope to develop our local PBM plans.

RTC Chairs meeting feedback
This meeting updates work and concerns from the other 9 RTC regions. Below are the main topics that were discussed:

Pathology modernisation has the aim to take laboratories and merge them into a hub and spoke formation. There was discussion regarding pathology modernisation and what this means in terms of blood transfusion. This has started to affect all RTC regions and concerns were raised at the meeting.

The 2 sample rule for blood transfusion is being implemented throughout the region. The 2 sample rule is based on the BCSH compatibility guidelines and should be risk assessed in Trusts to determine the safety of current processes. There was debate as to whether paediatrics and neonates should be included and if not what age is the cutoff.

The transfer of blood between hospital sites is still occurring in the country and is a cause of wastage. This was discussed in the London region a few years ago but this practice still seems to be happening. Other regions are looking into this with a local audit.

Wrong blood in tube (WBIT) errors are still being reported. This shows that there is still a problem with identify patients prior to phlebotomy. This is a hot topic with discussion at the RTC chairs meeting and BBTS.

HTC Chair attendance at RTC meetings was reported to be a cause for concern. The audience was asked who was a HTC Chair and the RTC had representation from 3 HTC chairs at this meeting.

Data regarding component issue in the London Region was show and compared to those of other RTC’s. London uses 15-20% more blood that the rest of the country but the issues for red cells are static when compared to 2011/12. The platelet issues are still increasing in the region although this has slowed.

Regional Transfusion Committee

Staffing

CG welcomed Megan Lawn and Wendy McSporran to the RTT. GC also thanked Erika Rutherford for all her hard work as Customer Service Manager for Colindale and wish her good luck in her new role as an RCI business manager.

The is now a Paediatric Working Group formed by Lisa Baldry, Keith Sibson and Mary Mathias for Great Ormond Street who will advise the RTC on paediatric matters when required.

London RTC Budget 2013/14

2013/14 Budget: £5,865.
Expenditure on activity year to date (2 RTC business meetings with education afternoon, 2 TP meetings, 3 TAG meetings): £9156.40. Sponsorship £4570
Balance at end of October 2013 = £1270

We aim to have a zero balance at year end. Sponsor will be sought to support all meeting. End of year budget will be presented at the next RTC business meeting in May.

RTC Work Plan

All items from the RTC work plan are due to be fed back on today’s agenda except the Educational Resource working group which has had no recent outputs.

Future London RTC education meetings are:
- 24th January 2014 – a joint London and SE coast whole day education which will be aimed at midwives and is entitled ‘Mums, Babies and Blood: Delivering a Safe Transfusion’
- BMS education days being planned and provisional dates are the 4th and 7th March 2014

London RTC Minutes 25.10.2013
• The next RTC business meeting will be in May (Date TBC) with the afternoon education session on Transfusion in the medical setting.

**London Platelet Action Group Update (LoPAG)**

Rachel Moss gave the RTC an update for the group. The following points were discussed:

LoPAG was formed two years ago with the aim of reduce platelet issues in the region and help ensure that platelets were given appropriately.

There are now platelet champions in 50% of Trusts in London and there was a platelet champion day held in November 2012. The resources from the day are available on the RTC website along with a platelet educational video on YouTube. RM asked for more platelet champions to be nominated from hospitals without them.

RM has presented at the National TP day, SNBTS, HotSig and at the South Central RTC to promote the message and resources from LoPAG.

There has been a Champions newsletter sent to all platelet champions to give information regarding LoPAG top tip #1 regarding holding stock platelets. This was sent out in hard copy with a platelet champions resource pack that contained useful information and where to find them.

RM presented a poster entitled ‘The Life of a London Platelet’ at BBTS about the work of LoPAG and handed out copies of the top ten tips. The poster got positive feedback from delegates at the meeting.

There will be a platelet designated education day for SpR’s and will be held at the London Deanery on the 14th January 2014. The agenda is in draft and speakers will be approached to speak on the day. The aim is to reach the SpR’s who are responsible for authorising platelet requests.

Next steps involve developing the second platelet champion’s newsletter and resource pack. There will be a second platelet champion education day. LoPAG will remain as a permanent work stream for the RTC.

Questions to speaker

JU asked if the TOPPS Trial was published. SA stated that it was and gave a brief overview of the findings.

GC asked what the target reduction was for the reduction of issued. RM stated that when LoPAG was started the aim was to reduce issues by 10% although this may not be a reasonable target. The aim of LoPAG should be to ensure that platelets are given appropriately.

RW asked about wastage figures and RM stated that this would be something that LoPAG looks at. ML stated that at Kings College all inappropriate use is treated as wastage. EO informed the group that there will be a review on the wastage categories on blood stock management scheme.

**London Transfusion Training Passport**

Mandy Hobson presented to the RTC with regard to this work activity. The aim of this work activity was to produce an agreed training passport so that staff movement within London did not lead to unnecessary training being carried out. The group would look at training and not competency assessment.

The group has Skills for Health (SFH) engagement and they have commented on various versions of the passport and are planning to pilot it in selected regions. It is now in its final draft and has been sent to the other RTC regions for comments. There are also plans to get involvement from Scotland and Wales.

Questions to Speaker:

GC stated that it would be good to have standardised core training so that local updates would be all that is required when starting at a new job.

EO updated the group on the SPN14 working group and stated that this group would like to join up with the training passport.

**Non-Medical Authorisation of Blood Components**

London RTC Minutes 25.10.2013
Tollene Riley presented an update to the RTC with regards to this work activity. The London and South East Coast have set up a working group to get non-medical authorisation of blood components established in the region.

The group is producing a toolkit that includes a Regional policy, guidance for implementation in trusts, competency document and log assessments. The aim is for the Trusts to use these documents and tailor them to their own practice. The resources will be held on the RTC website when finalised.

There is a NHSBT run course that was run in October 2013 and was the first course of its kind to be run in London. The course dates for next year are 28th April - 1st May and 6th-10th October.

Steve Wright from St Marks Hospital gave a presentation on his experiences as a nurse authoriser of blood components.

**NHSBT Update**

Erika Rutherford presented the update and informed the meeting of the following:

Sp-ICE has received positive feedback from users who have signed up. Nationally, 72% of hospitals will share all results with hospitals. There is still a proportion of hospitals that will view results but will not share them. It was reported that H&I results can now be viewed via Sp-ICE.

RW stated that it is important to note that it is a recommendation from SHOT that results should be shared in the interest of patient safety. SA suggested that a letter should be send from the RTC to hospitals that are not sharing results. From the Sp-ICE website it is possible to view which hospitals are not sharing their results.

Integrated Transfusion Service (ITS) has an update in the Hospital and Science update. There are 4 fully active stock replenishment sites; Bournemouth, Liverpool, Oxford and Blackpool. There are further 10 hospitals that are involved in desk top pilots and the pilot phase has been extended to December 2013.

Contracts between Trusts and NHSBT – hospital are reminded that for any planned changes there needs to be 12 months notice given to NHSBT. This can initially be done through the CMS but must be sent in writing to Commissioning.

The recall procedure is being reviewed and there will be a section on the hospital and science website for recall. There is a flow chart detailing the steps that hospitals should take when a recall is initiated and this will be circulated when finalised.

**Patient Blood Management – Update and RTC Action Plan**

GC gave a brief update on PBM. The framework should be approved by the Chief Medical Officer and be available in the near future. GC presented the work being done on the MBOS app for smart phones by the RTC and showed how it could be used in Trusts.

PBM will remain as a permanent agenda item.

**Educational Presentations**

Dr James Uprichard gave a presentation on Novel Anti-Coagulants and how to monitor and treat bleeding patients.
Dr Anne Weaver presented on HEMS and transfusion outside of a hospital.

**Any Other Business**

SA discussed Anaemia in Pregnancy Survey that will be circulated to the region and encouraged as many hospitals to respond.

RM asked the room if there was any know reason why blood transfusion would affect travel insurance premiums. This was discussed and will be further investigated and fed back to region.

GC thanked all the speakers and those involved in organising the meeting together with the sponsors who support the RTC.

London RTC Minutes 25.10.2013
Date of next Meeting

The next RTC Business and Education day will be held on the 30th April 2014 and will be followed by an education session on Medical Use of Blood.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm.