

UK Red Alert Plans Group Meeting

Wednesday, 27 November 2024 (14:00 – 15:00) via MS Teams

FINAL MINUTES

Attended	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fateha Chowdhury, Consultant Haematologist (NHSBT) (FC) – Chair- Katie Hands, Associate Medical Director (SNBTS) (KH)- Kathryn Maguire, Consultant in Transfusion Medicine (NIBTS) (KM)- Mike Murphy, Consultant Haematologist (NHSBT) (MM)- Elisabeth Davies, Clinical Scientist (WBS) (ED)- Indu Thakur, Blood Health Team Consultant (WBS) (IT)- Tracey Tomlinson, National Lead PBM, NHSBT (TT)- Sue Katic (NHSBT) (SK) – Minutes	
Apologies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lise Estcourt, Medical Director Transfusion (NHSBT) (LE)- Allameddine Allameddine, Medical Director (NIBTS) (AA)- Edwin Massey, Medical Director (WBS) (EM)	
	Minutes
1	<p>Welcome/Apologies</p> <p>FC - feedback received from KH. Minutes of previous meeting on 4 September 2024 - accepted as final.</p> <p>Tracey Tomlinson, National Lead for Patient Blood Management joined the group for this meeting, will be supporting with the PBM Blood Components App.</p> <p>Actions from meeting on 04.09.2024: Action: FC had prepared generic SLA for hospitals to set up their own sharing scheme – emailed to the group following the meeting.</p> <p>Action: FC had asked Stephen Thomas whether document output from this group could go on JPAC website. No response yet, will follow up. <i>Post meeting note – response received. Minutes and TORs will be forwarded to Peter Rae, Scientific Publishing Manager, JPAC.</i></p>
2	<p>Stock Updates</p> <p><u>England Update (FC):</u> Still in Amber Alert since 25 July, O Neg stock forecast in early October that by end of October would be in red alert. Additional actions undertaken including contacting the HEMS national major trauma lead, ask to promote the carriage of O Neg and O Pos in all the HEMS vehicles and reinforce using O Pos for males and for people who are beyond child bearing potential. Stocks have improved but forecast show will be in Amber Alert until at least January 2025.</p> <p>Pre-Amber for B Negative red cells declared 2 weeks ago, which means that O Negative will be used as substitution, putting further strain on O Negative stock. Collections down this week due to bad weather.</p> <p>New Donor Centre due to open in Brixton 16 December 2024.</p>

	<p><u>Scotland Update:</u> Had been doing fine for some months. Last week went into Pre-Amber for A Negative, corrected quite quickly. At the beginning of this week, not being able to collect to plan, due to bad weather and staffing issues. Christmas launch this week, hoping to boost donor numbers.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Update:</u> Stocks healthy, overall stocks are sitting just over six days. O Negative and O Positive; A Positive is just less than six days. Sessions this week and coming into to Christmas look quite healthy. Platelet stocks are fine as well. Have done a lot of work with our new donor engagement donor management team and online booking system has made a big change.</p> <p>Regional transfusion conference on 15 November, presented on the use of O Positive Red Cells in emergencies for males and females of non-child bearing potential because we're currently sitting out with guidance and were an outlier across the UK. Proposal paper currently with Chief Medical Officer, hope for endorsement and roll out soon.</p> <p><u>Wales Update:</u> Stocks are good at the moment. O Positive slightly down in the last few weeks but made a good recovery. Appointments up to capacity, so expect to recover from the Christmas break quite well. No issues currently. Some hitches with collections due to adverse weather and new donor booking system but has not affected stocks too much.</p>
3	<p>NBTC Blood Components App Update from Tracey Tomlinson who is supporting the change control for the App.</p> <p>TT has raised a formal change control within NHSBT Quality and started working through the process. Has drafted the risk and impact assessment which will be shared to the group. Action: SK to circulate email from TT to the group for comment.</p> <p>TT also been doing the DNI data integrity risk assessment, no patient identifiable data on there so quite straight forward, as well as an Annex 11 risk assessment, also straightforward because it is just an aid memoir and all the information on the App relates to published guidelines.</p> <p>NHSBT doing a big piece of work on cybersecurity following the cyber-attacks earlier this year which has shown that the domain used for the web version of the Components app is currently open. Does not link to any of our blood services data, but to make it more secure can lock it down to UK only. Currently, anyone internationally can access that website. Action: Group to advise whether they wish to lock down to UK only. Agreed</p> <p>For the risk and impact assessment and for the process, need to clarify, for each blood service who will be responsible for letting the developers know when to switch on and off an alert and how that would be managed. Within NHSBT this would be the Medical Director for Transfusion or the Business Continuity Lead. Action: Group to advise TT within four weeks who will do this for each Blood Service.</p>

	<p>MM wanted information on who users of the App were. FC explained that the App is on Android and Apple, available since 2017. Has been promoted during training in England to junior doctors. Link to the App via Hospitals & Sciences Website. Is used frequently.</p> <p>Northern Ireland, not frequently used so needs to be publicised more. FC advised that it is possible to download to mobile and use without WiFi. Will discuss with AA and Business Continuity further.</p> <p>SNBTS, App has been endorsed and also mentioned in training for foundation doctors.</p> <p>WBS have also been promoting the App during training days.</p> <p>MM advised that hospitals could implement clinical decision support within electronic patient records linked to LIMS as part of the blood ordering process. Easy to collect data via this. NIBTS has been rolling this out as well. Unfortunately LIMS systems not always sophisticated enough for this capability in all Trusts.</p>
4	<p>AOB</p> <p><i>Lessons learned from cyber-attacks:</i> NHSBT stood down from the June cyber-attacks in the first week of October.</p> <p>Meetings with all the relevant departments within NHSBT as well as with the consultants in the affected Trusts to share the learnings. A report is due out shortly from the Business Continuity Team to explain what each department did and lessons learned. MM suggested contacting the IT Guidelines Working Group with the possibility to have this published as an addendum to the guidelines.</p> <p>FC will also be updating the EPRR document written in 2019. This will be shared with the group when drafted in the New Year.</p> <p>Limited as to how quickly the information can all be produced due to current issues with blood supply etc.</p>
5	<p>Meetings for 2025, invites circulated post meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday, 19 March at 11am Wednesday, 23 July at 2pm Wednesday, 26 November at 2pm</p>