



**Joint Hospital Transfusion Practitioners
and Transfusion Lab Managers
NHS Blood and Transplant Donor Centre
65 New Street, Birmingham**

Friday 15th March 2013 - Minutes

Attendees

TP – Chair (Mary Hutchinson)

Suzy Biggs – Administrator, NHS Blood and Transplant
Michelle Budd – University Hospital Birmingham (Queen Elizabeth)
Maxine Boyd – The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust
Mandeep Dhanda – Walsall Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Jayne Evans – City and Sandwell University Hospital
Gill Godding – Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Andrea Harris – Secretary, NHS Blood and Transplant
Mary Hutchinson – Chair, University Hospital Birmingham (Queen Elizabeth)
Angela Sherwood – University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
Caroline Tuckwell – The Dudley Group Of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Antoinette Turner – George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

TLM – Chair (James Taylor)

Carla Newland-Baker - Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Loraine Blackwood – City Hospital Foundation Trust
Ray George - Birmingham Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Mike Herbert – Wolverhampton New Cross NHS Foundation Trust
Anne Jones-SPIRE Healthcare
Clare Pedley – Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Sarah Robinson – Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
Sara Strawford – SPIRE Little Aston Hospital
Mike Taylor – Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
Jane Tidman – University Hospital Birmingham (Queen Elizabeth)
Craig Wilkes – Customer Services Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant
Gurjit Pahal- Walsall Healthcare NHS FT

NHSBT

Name and role (PM only):

Dr Rekha Annand – Consultant Haematologist, NHS Blood and Transplant
Lesley Butler – Hospital Services Stock Holding Unit Manager (Bham), NHS Blood and Transplant
Helen Mugridge – Regional Head of Hospital Services, NHS Blood and Transplant
Ian Skidmore – RCI Reference Lab Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant
Jon Watts – Centre Manager, NHS Blood and Transplant

Apologies

Janine Beddow – University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
Trudi Burton – Burton Health Trust West Midlands Trust
Tracy Clarke – Wye Valley NHS Foundation Trust
Karen Cooper – Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
Andy Harris - Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
Jayne Khorsandi – Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
Jenny Meredith – Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
Daniel Palmer – Heart of England Mids Staffs Foundation Trust
Alex Radford – Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital
Michelle Reeves - City and Sandwell University Hospital
Angela Salmon – University Hospital of North Staffordshire
Jill Turner – Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Jennifer Ford - The Dudley Group
Rebecca Sivars - University Hospital of North Staffordshire
Richard Cole - Birmingham Children's Hospital
Paul Weaver - Alexandra Hospital Redditch

No notification from

Tracy Clarke – Wye Valley NHS Foundation Trust
Sarah Haley – South Warwickshire General Hospital NHS Trust
Pam Irving – Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust
John Hyslop - University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire
Dave Forester - South Warwickshire/George Eliot Hospitals
Neil Restell - Nuffield Healthcare Wolverhampton
Suresh Solanki - Nuffield Healthcare Warwick

Regional and National Updates:

RTC - Regional TP conference Monday 20th May 2013 - This conference will be held at Walsall Manor Hospital, will be called: '**Emergency Transfusion Medicine: Patient Blood Management**'.

Action: ALL let SB know as last places are available

RTC - education day / business meeting on Monday 15th July 2013 – This conference will be held at Warwickshire Golf Club, Warwickshire and it will consist of half a day study and half RTC business meeting. It is planned that this event will be a 'HTT away day' and will look at sharing ideas and practice for specific issues and looking at how HTTs can reinvigorate HTCs and clinical staff. If you have any specific topics or themes let us know and we can try and fit onto the agenda/programme.

Action: ALL let SB know any conference / RTC business meeting agenda items

RTC - West Mercia Guidelines / Additional RTC Guidelines - a telecon had taken place to discuss the transfusion content of the West Mercia guidelines and ensure that the content is correct and appropriate. The group also discussed areas where additional RTC guidance is needed – it is planned that any additional regional guidance will be linked to regional audit reports (e.g. regional platelet guidelines will be linked to the regional platelet report).

RTC - West Midlands Deanery On-line Blood Transfusion Training Package – most TPs can now access this through their training departments and are generally happy with the content. AH and Janine Beddow have recently reviewed the content and updates requested.

RTC - Chairmanship – Please can the group highlight the fact that we are seeking a new chair this November following Craig Taylor's chairmanship coming to its 4 year end. The deadline for applications is Friday 19th April. Anybody wanting further information should contact Suzette.biggs@nhsbt.nhs.uk.

Action: ALL pass any names/suggestions for new RTC chair onto SB.

RTC – Regional Audit group – chaired by Mike Herbert.

- O neg audit – preliminary results presented at RTC meeting last year. Report in progress.
- The Pre-op assessment survey will be going out in the next few weeks. Plan to send to TPs for them to forward to appropriate hospital pre-op colleagues
- Platelet audit – being developed

NBTC - Patient Blood Management – last year, there was a Patient Blood Management conference held in London, which was supported by NBTC, NHSBT and Department of Health. A report is being written which will be similar to and will build on the previous BBT Health Service Circulars – setting out actions and KPIs for hospitals. It is thought that this report will be supported by the DoH, but it is not yet clear how the recommendations in this report will be monitored or enforced.

NBTC - NPSA competency assessment – an NBTC sub-group is reviewing the NPSA Competency Assessment requirements, with a report due to be submitted to the next NBTC meeting.

NBTC – Indication Codes for Blood Transfusion – these are being reviewed by NBTC.

NBTC - National Lab Managers Group – attended by James Taylor as West Midlands representative. Topics covered include: BCSH guidelines, National Blood Transfusion Committee work plan, National Commissioning group, feedback from groups (including NBTC, MHRA, SACBC, BBTS), blood component issues (O neg in particular), wastage, KPI's, pathology services.

BBTS - National TP Group – the next National BBTS TP conference will be held in Birmingham Thursday 16th May. The BBTS HoT SIG conference will be held the day before (15th May). Both will be targeting good transfusion practice. These events will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and you can attend one day or both (plus evening meal event on 15th).

The group are also planning to write regular newsletters, maintain the TP section of the BBTS website (non-BBTS members can access this section) and review who sits on national groups as TP representative and improve communications.

The group discussed the format of the national TP group, with some concern expressed that each regional group is not represented on the national group, and therefore the regional group feeling a little 'detached' from what the national group is doing.

Action: JE to write to national TP group with regional group concerns

NHSBT – National Comparative Audit:

Planned audits for this year are:

- Spring 2013: Audit of the management of patients in Neuro Critical Care Units
- Spring 2013: Audit of the use of Anti-D
- Autumn 2013: Audit of the management of patients with haemoglobinopathies
- Autumn 2013: Audit of patient information and consent

NHSBT – Patient Information Leaflets / staff educational resources:

AH provided an overview of:

- NHSBT patient information leaflets
(http://hospital.blood.co.uk/library/patient_information_leaflets/leaflets/index.asp)
- NHSBT educational materials (available from <https://ww3.access-24.co.uk>)
- Platelet educational resources
(http://hospital.blood.co.uk/safe_use/platelet_education_resources/index.asp)
- O neg educational resources
(http://hospital.blood.co.uk/safe_use/o_rhd_negative_educational_resources/index.asp)

The 'Will I Need a Blood Transfusion' patient information leaflet is being reviewed, and a new 'retrospective' leaflet is being produced. Also plans for leaflets for sickle cell and haemoglobinopathy patients.

NHSBT – LearnBloodTransfusion – has new Consent for Blood Transfusion module has just been launched.

BCSH – Transfusion Task Force guidelines - AH gave an overview of BCSH transfusion guidelines. It was acknowledged that although some guidelines are now quite old, e.g. the red cell and the platelet guidelines, the recommendations in these documents are still valid. The BCSH are planning that future guidelines will be more speciality targeted (e.g. the recent red cell in critical care guidelines).

There is currently an International Collaborative for use of platelets in haematology which the BCSH is involved with – await the outcome of this before the BCSH considers any other platelet guidelines.

Other BCSH guidelines in development include anti-D (rewrite), massive haemorrhage, blood components in critical care, transfusion in transplant recipients, and management of anaemia pre-operatively.

The BCSH are currently undergoing guideline accreditation with NICE.

NICE are developing a writing group to also write transfusion related guidelines.

DVD: CTI – ‘Criminal Transfusion Investigation’:

This was developed by the East Midlands TP group and was created as a training tool. It is available to buy for £7.00 a copy by contacting odette.colgrave@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Why are West Midlands So Bad?:

JT led a group discussion as to why the West Midlands is such a big user of O neg. The national target is 10.5% but the West Midlands has historically had higher usage. During the past 11 months, the West Midlands were joint worst region in the country at 11.5%.

Prior to the meeting, JT had invited attendees to consider the following:

- 1) During January, what was your average O neg stock level according to BSMS?
- 2) What would trigger an adhoc?
- 3) How many O neg do you have?
- 4) How much stock is ‘too much’? ie. small hospitals

Key discussion points:

- If trusts had visibility to NHSBT stock levels this would not make any difference to what was being ordered? No - it may have a negative impact and panic you into ordering more!
- Are all BMS staff aware of O neg issues?
 - GEH have audited O neg usage, raised awareness and are reducing stockholding
 - QEH have set ideal levels, minimum levels, and reordering levels – published on the front of the fridge
- Is it cheaper to have higher O neg stockholding
 - Less wastage
 - There is no financial incentive to stock less
 - ?? increase price of O negs
 - ?? fine hospitals if high O neg
 - ?? credit for B negs
- Regional O neg audit shows some hospitals stocking too much
- Switch to O pos / use of O pos fliers
- Audit – O neg usage / MTP activation (audit both lab and clinical area)
- Could stock sharing schemes be improved
 - Between hospitals
 - Including NHSBT
- ? need better reagents – quicker results
- Automation has improved and become faster
- Education of clinical staff – “I want O neg” – misunderstanding of group specific
- If 4 O neg fliers in fridge – some clinical staff will take all 4 but waste 3!!
 - ? Change to 2 O negs in fridge – 2 O negs in laboratory

Individuals were asked to think about how they can reduce their own O neg stockholding and usage – all hospitals regardless of size – every little helps.

NHSBT:

Sp-ICE (RCI)

- 58% of RCI referrers equating to ~75% of work load
- 70% of these have agreed to share with all.
- 15% are sharing with a selection of hospitals
- 15% are sharing with no other hospital.

Bar codes on RBC – 6 hospitals affected and you may be asked to test the new bar code readers. They will simply send out in the post, along with instructions. You just need to follow these and send back. This will roll out shortly.

Cut off times for orders - The problem is Birmingham work to 1 hour cut off times and most hospitals order daily closer to 1 hour. Many orders 10+ units and this is unsustainable. Therefore, the solution is either:-

- Strict 2 hrs
- Set what ‘small order’ is
 - Up to 12 units 2 hrs
 - Up to 6 items less than 2 hrs

It was agreed that as of 1st May 2013 orders received less than 2 hours before the cut off time for more than six units would not be able to go on the round. Hospital Service will contact the hospital to advise and alter accordingly.

A laminated sheet will be provided to each trust with your cut off times printed on and sent out to each of you.

Action: CW to arrange for laminated sheets to be printed and sent out

Despatch Notes - These are produced on a poor quality with a 3 ply carbon dot matrix printer which is out of date and expensive to run. So a new set up will include 3 pages.

H&I - Orders are being received by fax after 16:00 with no follow up phone call. This can cause orders not to be picked up until the following morning causing delay in supply.

- There are also sample arriving that are not labelled in accordance with guidelines, H&I will try and test under concession but this is not good practice. We do not operate a zero tolerance as do hospital labs at the moment and hope not to have to. All labs were asked to be aware of order times and sample labelling.

VaQTec Boxes – NHSBT have ordered 250 new boxes. These are a slightly different colour.

Frozen Components - Last February a notification was added to the Red Book, to change the storage requirements of frozen components from 'below -30oC', to 'below -25oC' as it has been found to have no adverse effect.

NHSBT Apologise - CW wanted to make two apologies, one that the OBOS training site had taken 6 weeks to resolve error message when logging on.

Also, that Credits for February were not processed and will now not be received until March.

ABLE Study:

JT presented the age of blood evaluation study, which Heart of England Trust is participating in. This trial is comparing 'fresh' blood with older blood in ICU patients, less than 7 days in hospital, not previously transfused. One group has 'fresh' blood while the other has standard and monitor 90 day mortality. International trial led by the Canadian's – currently 12 centres, planned over 3 years.

BCSH Compatibility Guideline - 2 Sample Issues:

JE presented the new BCSH Compatibility Guidelines requirement to have two samples.

Wolverhampton New Cross hospital has been doing this for some time (before these guidelines were written). Worcester are starting a pilot scheme

Discussions:

- Can we get a co-ordinated approach across all regional hospitals?
- Many patients already have a historic group
- To prevent clinical staff taking the two samples from the patient at the same time and then sending separately, suggestion that second sample should be in a sample tube sent from the lab - different coloured sample tubes, or bar coded label on tube
- A comment that it should be for the clinical staff to check patient blood group – if no group is available, it is the doctors responsibility to take a second sample and this is written into the policy

Shared Care:

A new regional Shared Care document has been trialled with Heart of England, University Hospital Birmingham and Russells Hall Hospital. Initially for transplant patients, it is possible that this form could also be used for other shared care patients e.g. other haematology patients and haemoglobinopathy patients. The form has been developed to aide communications between the hub and referring hospital with regards to transfusion requirements. All forms and guidance note will be uploaded on the RTC website. The RTC group has been collating generic email addresses from all regional hospitals – but some hospitals remain outstanding.

Action: send all emails to SB/AH/CW/JT ASAP

Future Meetings

The individual TP and TLM groups will need to consider whether they want to continue with future joint meetings. Feedback from individuals to be sought via a Survey Monkey.

TP meeting dates for 2013:

- **Friday 28th June 2013**
- **Monday 9th September 2013**
- **Friday 13th December 2013**

(All at Birmingham New Street)

Blood bank managers dates 2013/14:

- **Tuesday 23rd July 2013**
- **Thursday 7th November 2013**
- **Thursday 13th March 2014**
- **Thursday 17th July 2014 (TBC)**
- **Thursday 13th November 2014 (TBC)**

(All at Birmingham New Street)