

0032

IN CONFIDENCE

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Minutes of Directors' meeting held at Protein Fractionation Centre, Edinburgh at 10.45 a.m. on Monday, 8 May, 1978.

PRESENT: Dr J Wallace (in the chair)      Dr A E Bell, SHHD  
           Dr C Cameron                              Miss M Corrie (Secretary)  
           Dr J D Cash  
           Dr I A Cook  
           Dr H B M Lewis  
           Mr J G Watt

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Apologies were intimated from Dr Maycock and Dr Waiter and, on account of illness, from Mr Roberts. Directors expressed their concern and asked Miss Corrie to convey their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

## 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A list of amendments to the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 1978 had been circulated. It was agreed that a revised set of minutes incorporating the amendments should be circulated.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 1 MARCH 1978

a. Trends in the demand for blood products (minute 7)

It was reported that the Directors' views had been passed to CSA headquarters division as agreed at the last meeting and that the Management Committee were understood to be considering the matter in order to make a recommendation to SHHD. Directors expressed the hope that their recommendation for a new Working Party on Blood Products Production would be accepted in Scotland and recommended to DHSS.

b. Anti-tetanus immunoglobulin (minute 8)

Dr Cook introduced his paper (which had been circulated) in which he had summarised replies from General Practitioners in the area of the Highland Health Board and was congratulated on having elicited an 80% response. The use of anti-tetanus IgG indicated in his paper was noted. It was agreed to await the result of surveys being undertaken in other Regions before deciding on action. The possibilities of making the BTS product known through the British Medical Journal and the Health Bulletin were mentioned.

c. Haemolytic disease of the newborn (minute 4)

Dr Wallace reported having attended a meeting of the Working Party which had been formed by the Joint Sub-Committee on Prevention of Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn to study on its behalf the implications of introducing antepartum administration of anti-D IgG. He explained that Dr Waiter, Chairman of the Working Party, was preparing for the parent committee a report including the implications for producers of the IgG and the extra workload which it was estimated would fall on antenatal clinics and laboratories.

Mr Watt gave an interim oral report on the study of anti-D plasma being undertaken at PFC, to the effect that there was no significant loss of anti-D in processing to fraction II. He would report fully at a later date.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 17 JANUARY 1978

a. Human Serum from quality control (minute 3d)

Dr Bell sought Directors' advice on the draft (which had been circulated) of a questionnaire and covering letter which it was proposed to send to clinical chemistry laboratories throughout the NHS in Scotland. There was also tabled a letter from Dr Andrew P Kenny, Medical Biochemist, Glasgow Victoria Infirmary, offering suggestions for rewording the questionnaire.

Various amendments to both letter and questionnaire were adopted. It was agreed that Dr Bell should confirm the revised documents with Dr Cash before issue. The channel for issue would be the Transfusion Directors in N, NE, E and SE Scotland and, for W Scotland, SHHD.

b. Standards for the collection and processing of blood and blood products (minute 5)

Dr Cash reported that he had, following the meeting on 17 January, submitted to Dr Moir a revised version of the paper (which had been tabled on 17 January) on the subject of 'pigtail' blood collecting packs.

As a result he had agreed to undertake in his Centre tests on Tuta 'pigtail' packs and, following a meeting with members of DHSS Medicines Division which he hoped would take place shortly, he expected to conduct agreed tests during the summer of 1978. Unless Tuta Laboratories withdrew the 'pigtail' pack unilaterally, therefore, it would remain on the market for some time.

## 5. CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE CLINICAL USE OF BLOOD CELL SEPARATORS

A copy of the report of the Working Party on the Clinical Use of Blood Cell Separators, incorporating a code of practice, had been circulated. It was explained that SHHD would be arranging formal consultation through its established machinery, including the Blood Transfusion Advisory Group. While Directors had certain reservations about the report and code of practice, they agreed that the latter provided useful guidelines at the current stage of development in the use of cell separators.

## 6. ALUMINIUM IN SPFS

Referring to a case of aluminium retention in a kidney-damaged patient on dialysis, Mr Watt explained that aluminium hydroxide had been identified in Factor VIII and SPFS produced at PFC and that investigations throughout the production line at PFC had led to the discovery of a possible source in a component of a piece of equipment which was not to specification. It was emphasised that the aluminium content of PFC products would not affect recipients whose renal function was normal.

## 7. MEMORANDUM ON THE SELECTION, MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND CARE OF BLOOD DONORS

The final version of this report (which had been prepared on behalf of the meeting of Regional Transfusion Directors of England and Wales) was noted. It was noted also that the memorandum would be incorporated into the draft "Standards for the Collection and Processing of Blood and Blood Components" which had been discussed at earlier meetings.

8. WORKING PARTY TO FORMULATE A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTION IN CLINICAL LABORATORIES

It was explained that the report of the above Working Party (which had been received from SHHD and circulated to BTS Directors for informal discussion) had been considered by the appropriate advisory groups to the Scottish Home and Health Department and that a circular of guidance would be issued by SHHD in due course.

Directors agreed to undertake within their own Centres informal discussions on the implications for BTS.

9. CARDIAC SURGERY

The report of a Programme Planning Group of the Scottish Health Service Planning Council, which had been circulated, was noted. It was agreed that BTS could supply the required red cells.

10. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 11 July if there was sufficient business, with Dr Cash in the chair.