

Joint UKBTS/HPA Professional Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 51st meeting held at the Association of Anaesthetists, 21 Portland Place, London, on Thursday 15th March 2012

Meeting commenced at: 11:04

PRESENT

Dr Susan Barnes	(SB)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Care and Selection of Donors
Dr Rebecca Cardigan	(RC)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Blood Components
Dr Stephen Field	(SF)	- Acting Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service
Prof Ian Franklin	(IMF)	- National Medical Director, Irish Blood Transfusion Service
Dr Victoria Gauden	(VG)	- Human Tissue Authority (HTA)
Mr Nigel Goulding	(NG)	- Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Dr Stephen Inglis	(SI)	- Director, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control
Dr Alan Kitchen	(AK)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections (SACTTI section only)
Mrs Linda Lodge	(LL)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Information Technology
Dr Sheila MacLennan	(SM)	- Professional Director of JPAC (Chair)
Dr Derek Norfolk	(DN)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Clinical Transfusion Medicine
Mr Alan Slopecki	(AS)	- Representing the Quality Managers of the 4 UK Blood Services
Miss Caroline Smith	(CJS)	- JPAC Manager (Minute taker)
Dr Stephen Thomas	(ST)	- Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO)
Prof Marc Turner	(MT)	- Medical Director, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Dr Lorna Williamson	(LW)	- Medical Director, NHS Blood and Transplant
Dr Nay Win	(NW)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Immunohaematology

SM welcomed Stephen Field, Acting Medical Director of the Welsh Blood Service, Alan Slopecki, representing the Quality Managers and Alan Kitchen, representing SACTTI, to the meeting.

SM also informed JPAC that, since the last meeting, Dr Dick Jones had retired as Medical Director of the Welsh Blood Service and wanted to thank him for his contribution to JPAC since February 2004.

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1.

APOLOGIES

Mr Ian Bateman	(IB)	- Representing the Quality Managers of the 4 UK Blood Services
Dr Patricia Hewitt	(PEH)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections
Dr Joanne Murdock	(JM)	- Medical Director, Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
Prof James Neuberger	(JN)	- Associate Medical Director – Organ Donation & Transplantation, NHS Blood & Transplant
Dr Phil Yates	(PY)	- Standing Advisory Committee on Tissues

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Prof Maria Zambon (MZ) - and Cellular Therapy Products
Director, Centre for Infections, Health
Protection Agency (HPA)

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2011 – JPAC 12-02**

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA (Review of actions list) JPAC 12-03**

3.1 **Review of high titre anti-A/B testing of donors within the UK Blood Services – JPAC 10-40 – item 3.1.**

This item relates to the component portfolio and labelling. RC gave an update of the current situation.

SACBC have now been trained to use the portfolio and operational representatives are currently checking the database to ensure it is up to date. Location of the portfolio is still to be confirmed. SACBC would prefer for it to be hosted on the SNBTS server with a link through from the JPAC website. This would enable it to be up and running sooner rather than later, and the portfolio could then be developed further in the future. LL asked SM to seek funding for the £1500 annual hosting fees that this costs SNBTS. RC to discuss the way forward with Darren Elvidge the JPAC website Manager.

RC

3.2 **Blood Components – Proposed model for SNOMED-CT (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms) – JPAC 11-26 – item 3.4**

The finalised paper has been taken to SNOMED UK to become part of SNOMED-CT technology and then international SNOMED and international ISBT. Feedback from NHS Connecting for Health is awaited. LL will keep a watching brief for JPAC.

3.3 **West Nile Virus precautions for UK blood donors – starting date for donor deferral – JPAC 11-30 – item 3.5**

SM informed JPAC that Change Notifications have been issued with regard to West Nile Virus. The “typical WNV season” dates for affected areas has changed to “from 1 May to 30 November” and there is now approval to NAT test for West Nile Virus. The relevant changes are being made to all the donor selection guidelines and these are due to go live on 28 March 2012.

Post Meeting Note: All the changes to the Donor Selection Guidelines and the JPAC Position Statement regarding WNV went live on the JPAC Website on 28 March.

3.4 **Prion filters – item 3.7**

There are two General Information papers regarding prion filtration on the JPAC website:

- UKBTS General Information 06 – Evaluation of Efficacy of Prion Removal

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Filters – which is currently being updated by the Prion Working Group.

ST will update the paper. If there are substantive changes the paper will come back to JPAC. If the changes are minor it will be published on the JPAC website.

- UKBTS General Information 07 – Validation of Blood Component Quality Following Prion Removal Procedures for Red Cell Components – which is currently being updated by SACBC.

RC informed JPAC that as the changes to this paper are very minor it doesn't need to come to JPAC and can be posted straight on the JPAC website.

Post Meeting Note: Both these papers have now been updated and posted in the Document Library of the JPAC Website.

3.5 Recommendations for changes to acceptance criteria for UK whole blood and component donors with mild to moderate ischaemic heart disease – JPAC 11- 44 – item 3.8

JPAC 11-44 was submitted to the JPAC meeting on 30 June 2011, but was not approved. There was considerable discussion on this paper, especially with regard to the definitions of severity of heart disease. The paper has gone back to SACCSO for further work. SB will provide an update for JPAC at the next meeting on 28 June.

SB

3.6 JPAC Decision Making Framework – JPAC 11-48 – item 9.

This item will be carried over to the June JPAC meeting.

SM

3.7 Review of high titre anti-A/B testing of donors within the UK Blood Services – JPAC 10-40 – item 4.1.

SM will report the results and recommendations of this review to the SHOT Steering Group meeting on 3 April.

Post Meeting Note: SM informed the SHOT Steering Group that JPAC had reviewed HT testing and recommended no change to current practice, but we will keep this under review. The 2012 SHOT report will include a Learning Point that any suspected haemolysis due to anti-A/B after platelet transfusion should be referred to a reference laboratory for investigation.

3.8 The estimated risk of HBV and HCV window period infections in surgical bone donors being missed by testing, England 2005 – 2010 – JPAC 11-63 – item 8.2

Action from the JPAC meeting on 10 November 2011 – JPAC endorsed the paper with some amendments.

3.9 The estimated risk of HBV, HCV, HIV and HTLV (type 1) potentially infectious donations entering the UK blood supply due to the window period of tests in use, 2008 – 2010 – JPAC 11-64 – item 8.3

Action from the JPAC meeting on 10 November 2011 – PEH was asked to ask the Epidemiology Steering Group whether we should be including HTLV risk, given the doubts about the relevance of any window period to the risk of an

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infectious donation.

Post Meeting Note: Paper submitted to the JPAC meeting on 28 June 2012.

4. **STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS**

4.1 **Tissue or cell donation and men who have sex with men (msm) – JPAC 12-04**

This paper from SACTTI and SACTCTP sets out proposals for changing the msm donor deferral criteria for tissues and cells in line with the changes to the blood donor deferral criteria.

LW updated SaBTO on this issue last week. She has been asked to chair a short life working group to develop proposals for SaBTO. These will be brought back to the next SaBTO.

It was noted that other viruses such as HHV8 may be relevant to tissues. In addition a change to testing regimes (single donor NAT) may have operational implications for some of the Services. JPAC noted that the msm change to deferral has not been made in Northern or Southern Ireland.

A few amendments to the paper were proposed and the revised paper will be forwarded to LW and ST.

Post Meeting Note: JPAC 12-04 has been amended following comments made at the meeting and sent to LW and ST.

4.2 **H5N1 pandemic influenza risk assessment version 3 – JPAC 12-05**

This risk assessment has been reviewed and only minor changes were required. JPAC endorsed the recommendation to keep this under review and update as and when further information becomes available.

4.3 **Seasonal Influenza A risk assessment version 3 – JPAC 12-06**

JPAC noted the change in name from non-pandemic to seasonal influenza and endorsed the recommendation that no specific measures are required with respect to blood safety and seasonal Influenza A.

4.4 **JPAC Position Statement on West Nile Virus – March 2012 – JPAC 12-07**

JPAC approved the updated Position Statement with a few minor amendments. This Position Statement will be published in the Document Library on the JPAC website.

Post Meeting Note: This updated position statement was posted on the JPAC website on 28 March 2012.

5. **STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BLOOD COMPONENTS**

5.1 **Methylene Blue Plasma – current status – JPAC 12-08**

In view of the withdrawal of MBFFP in France, due to perceived safety issues, SACBC have reviewed the UK haemovigilance and efficacy data on this and

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other pathogen inactivated FFP products.

SM congratulated SACBC on a very comprehensive paper, on which there was considerable discussion.

It was agreed that there was no evidence to justify immediate withdrawal of MBFFP, but that the data would be taken into account when selecting pathogen inactivated FFP in the future.

RC will request further information from AFSAPPS (Agence Francaise de Securite Sanitaire des Produits de Sante) about the data on which their decision was made. NG agreed to help if necessary.

RC & NG

RC will commission further work on fibrinogen content of UK MBFFP.

RC

It was agreed that we should recommend robust investigation of severe allergic reactions to FFP to determine the underlying cause. This recommendation should be communicated to SHOT and BCSH for incorporation in future reports/guidelines.

SM & DN

The UK haemovigilance data should be published, and a position paper published on the JPAC website, the latter to come to the next JPAC meeting.

RC**5.2 Liquid Plasma for Emergency Use**

RC has been approach by Richard Rackham on behalf of the NHSBT Olympics planning group with a request to be able to use plasma, that has not been frozen, for up to 5 days as a contingency should the occasion arise.

This would be a new component which would require a new component code.

RC and SM will discuss further with Richard Rackham to clarify what specification is required.

SM & RC

Post Meeting Note: JPAC paper 'Liquid Plasma for Contingency' circulated to JPAC for comment/approval on 11 June 2012.

6. STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNO-HAEMATOLOGY**6.1 Working Party on DNA Reference Materials for Immunohaematology – JPAC 12-09**

JPAC approved the recommendation to disband this working party.

6.2 Proposed wording for the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom, Chapter 13 (Donation Testing), Section 13.11.3 and new section 13.11.5. – JPAC 12-10

It was noted that this paper proposed a significant change in the guidelines for provision of phenotyped red cells. NW was asked to provide further data and a risk assessment before the change could be agreed.

SM asked NW to discuss with SB and Peter Senior so that the data on possible donor misidentification can also be included and bring back to the November JPAC meeting.

NW

ACTION

6.3 Additional testing in the Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom, Chapter 13 (Donation Testing), Section 13.11.2 Testing and issue of high titre anti-A/anti-B: red cells need further clarification – 12-11

The removal of the requirement for labelling SAG-M red cells with high titre anti-A/anti-B status was agreed, but there should be further consultation about whether this is still required for paediatric components. Action: NW to discuss with BCSH transfusion task force and update JPAC at the next meeting on 28 June.

NW

7. **STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CARE AND SELECTION OF DONORS**

7.1 Recommendation to change Donor Selection Guidelines Skin Disease topic to include advice on Lichen Planus, calcineurin inhibitor creams and change of deferral period for Acitretin - JPAC 12-12

JPAC approved the recommendations to make these changes to the donor selection guidelines regarding skin disease topics.

Post Meeting Note: Change Notifications No's 6 and 15 Acne, No 11 Skin Disease, No's 8 and 17 Psoriasis were issued on 9 May 2012.

7.2 Recommended change to Donor Selection Guidelines Entries on: Cardiovascular Disease for Congenital Heart Disease and to take account of the actual wording of BSQR 2005 – JPAC 12-13

JPAC approved the recommendations to make these changes to the donor selection guidelines.

Post Meeting Note: Change Notifications No 12 Cardiovascular Disease and No 13 Cardiac Surgery were issued on 9 May 2012.

7.3 Recommendation to add Fish Pedicures to the index of the Donor Selection Guidelines – JPAC 12-14

JPAC approved the recommendation that, in the light of recommendations from HPA, no deferral is recommended for donors who have had this treatment and the index item Fish Pedicures should be added to the DSG and linked to 'accept'.

Post Meeting Note: May 2012: Fish Pedicures has been added to the Donor Selection Guidelines and linked to 'Accept'.

7.4 Recommendations on a change to the Donor Selection Guidance for Pregnancy – JPAC 12-15

JPAC approved the recommendation to add advice to the pregnancy topic regarding Methotrexate, as per the BSQR.

Post Meeting Note: Change Notifications No 9 Pregnancy (WB DSG) and No 16 Pregnancy (TDSGs) were issued on 9 May 2012.

7.5 Recommendations on a change to the Geographical Disease Risk Index following comparison of GDRI with Travax database (Health Protection

ACTION**Scotland and advice from the HPA) – JPAC 12-16**

JPAC approved the changes to the entries in the GDRI. It is proposed that in future the entries will be reviewed annually.

Post Meeting Note: Change Notification No 14 GDRI Malaria was issued on 9 May 2012.

7.6 Recommendation to change the Donor Selection Guidelines entry on Toxoplasmosis – JPAC 12-29

JPAC approved the recommendations to make these changes to the donor selection guidelines.

Post Meeting Note: Change Notifications No 7 Toxoplasmosis (WB DSG) and No 18 Toxoplasmosis (TDSGs) were issued on 9 May 2012.

8. UK BTS FORUM: UPDATE FROM 24 FEBRUARY 2012 – JPAC 12-17

JPAC did not have any major items to bring to this UK Forum meeting as there had not been a JPAC meeting since the last UK Forum meeting in December.

9. FEEDBACK FROM CD-P-TS MEETING ON 8 MARCH 2012 – JPAC 12-30

SM went through her feedback paper for the Group. There were two main items on the agenda:

- Update from the Pathogen Inactivation Symposium – September 2010
- Risk behaviours having an impact on donor management

The paper on risk behaviours will be discussed at the Competent Authorities meeting in April following which it will be submitted to the Council of Ministers. SM asked NG to feedback from the Competent Authorities meeting in April. SM to circulate final paper to JPAC and NG will forward to DH.

Post Meeting Note: Project TSO57: Risk behaviours having an impact on blood donor management was circulated to JPAC on 16 March 2012. JPAC were asked to note that this was not the final version. This item has been added to the agenda for the JPAC meeting on 28 June 2012 and Nigel Goulding has submitted a paper feeding back from the meeting in April.

10. SaBTO update – DR STEPHEN THOMAS

LW has been asked by SaBTO to set up a working group of NHSBT and SaBTO members to explore options for a study of compliance with donor deferrals.

ST reported back from the SaBTO meeting on 9 March.

Importation of Fresh Frozen Plasma - SaBTO, having reviewed current assessment of the risk of vCJD transmission from blood components, and taking into account cost-effectiveness, recommended that there should be no extension of the importation of FFP beyond for those whom it is currently used (those born

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since 1 January 1996 and high-usage adult patients).

Prion Filtration - SaBTO reviewed its 2009 recommendation on the use of prion filtered red cells for those born after 1 January 1996 which was subject to satisfactory completion of a clinical trial to assess safety. The trial has been completed and on the data available shows that the use of the PCapt filter does not reduce the overall safety of transfusions. However before making a final decision SaBTO has requested the final results from an important study on the efficacy of the filter which will finish in late 2012, as it is important that these results are fully validated and reviewed before SaBTO again considers the potential use of prion filtration. SaBTO expect to again review the evidence after the efficacy study is completed in late 2012.

11. **JPAC WEBSITE TRANSFUSIONGUIDELINES.ORG.UK**

11.1 **Redevelopment of the JPAC website – JPAC 12-18**

The contents were noted.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

12.1 **Suggested dates for JPAC meetings in 2013**

- Thursday 21 March - Association of Anaesthetists, London
- Thursday 4 July - Association of Anaesthetists, London
- Thursday 14 November - Association of Anaesthetists, London

The suggested meeting dates for 2013 were approved.

13. **DATE & VENUE FOR FUTURE JPAC MEETINGS**

2012

- Thursday 28 June - Association of Anaesthetists, London
- Thursday 8 November - Association of Anaesthetists, London

Meeting closed at 14:58