

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service held on Monday 20th February 2012 at 12.30pm in the Boardroom, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8.

Present: Ms. Katharine Bulbulia, Chairperson
Mr. Sean Wyse
Ms. Jane O'Brien
Dr. Paolo Rebullia
Mr. David Lowe
Ms Ann Horan
Dr Paul Browne
Ms Marie Keane
Dr Lelia Thornton
Ms Sinead Ni Mhaille

Apologies: Dr Hilary O'Leary
Mr. Dave Keenan

Also in attendance: Mr. Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive
Dr. Ian Franklin, Medical & Scientific Director
Ms Mirinda O'Donovan, Secretary to the Board

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Board on Monday 16th January 2012.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board on Monday 16th January were approved without amendment.

2. Matters Arising

Therapeutic Apheresis Service

There has been no progress to date. Dr P Browne confirmed that this matter was to be discussed in a meeting with the CE of SJH and that arrangements with Tallaght are being considered.

Recombinants

The Bill has been published and is due to go to Committee stage next. It is still hoped that the legislation will be passed before the current contracts expire at the end of March.

BECS

The closing date for this tender is 24/02.

Bloodmobile

The WBS sent an inspector to look at the Bloodmobile and the WBS Board has given their approval to proceed with the purchase. We await an offer.

3. Chief Executive's Report

Blood supply

The blood supply is extremely strong at the moment. Reduced text messaging, clinic cancellations and asking some blood groups not to attend clinics have been used to try to reduce numbers attending.

The Operations Director, Donor Consultant and Director of Nursing are attending an EBA workshop on donor deferral criteria this week.

Electronic Ordering System

All hospitals will be live by the end of the month and then the system will be moved to a 24/7 operation. A number of suggested changes from the users are being considered for version 2.

SOPs

As the consolidation of SOPs continues, the number is being reduced – there are currently 894.

Review of Quality Function

The final report has been received but has not yet been discussed by the EMT.

HSE Transport Tender

The HSE tender for transport services is due to close at the end of the month.

Virology contingency

A new Director is to be appointed to the SNBTS shortly. The implementation of the Virology contingency arrangements has been delayed.

Redeployment

A meeting was held with CUH management to discuss the possible redeployment of IBTS staff to CUH, when the IBTS ceases blood banking for SIVH. There has been little progress on this issue.

Redundancy

Voluntary redundancy has been agreed with 2 staff and a third person is in discussions. The DOH has approved a voluntary redundancy scheme of up to 20 posts – the selection criteria are being drafted.

Legal case

The CE briefed the Board on a legal case.

Terumo Contract

The CE outlined the position regarding an extension of the Terumo contract for apheresis sets. This was approved.

4. Review of 2011

The CE gave a presentation outlining progress in 2011 against the business plan for the year, including the reduction of red cell wastage from 4% to 2% and the reduction of platelet usage by 5% while the Limbal Stem Cell project is funded until April 2012, and a licence application is progressing, additional funding has been sought from the RVEEH to 6 to 10 operations a year. The Chairperson thanked the CE for his detailed and informative presentation.

5. Pension Scheme

The CE has written to the DOH to arrange a meeting between the DPER, the DOH and the IBTS. A PQ response by the Minister on this issue was also noted. The CE also briefed the Board on meetings he has had with staff in the centres around the country on this issue.

6. Presentation on Medical & Scientific Matters

The M&SD briefed the Board on current issues including prion filtration and vCJD, HSE proposals on Haemochromatosis, the development of the IUBMR and national cord blood banking in partnership with the NIBTS. Dr Rebullia noted that cord banking in Lombardy was well developed and that there were a number of different models in operation. The Chairperson thanked the M&SD for his detailed and informative presentation.

7. Cost saving measures

The CE briefed the Board on the meeting with DOH officials. It was agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Minister seeking a meeting to outline the proposals and that a briefing note on the proposals would be included. The CE reaffirmed to the Board that work on progressing the various proposals would continue in the interim.

8. Minutes of the MAC meeting on 19th December 2011

The minutes were taken as read. The Chairperson of the MAC briefed the Board on a number of issues, including the Clinical Risk Register which was reviewed at the January meeting and will be further examined by the IBTS consultants before returning to the issue at the next MAC meeting.

9. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 8th November 2011

The minutes were taken as read. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee briefed the Board on the outcome of the ABC project and the concern regarding the contract for the sale of plasma. The draft business plan and the annual accounts were reviewed by the Finance Committee at its most recent meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Tuesday 20th March 2012 at 12.30pm.**

Signed: _____

Date: _____