

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Infection Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Friday 12th December 2003, 2.00pm
Conference Suite, Arthington House, Cookridge Hospital

Present:	Dr D Birkenhead	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Dr K Kerr (Chair)	Harrogate Health Care NHS Trust
	Dr A Hale	Leeds Public Health Laboratory
	Dr R Barton Dr R Hobson Dr G Smith Dr T Collyns	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Miss L Carroll	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Dr R Ashbee, Prof M Baker, Miss R Copland, Dr B Crosse, Dr P Godwin, Ms K Howell, Dr J Minton, Mr N Shaw, Mr B Tinkler, Ms S Whitely and Dr N Young.

Dr Kerr introduced and welcomed Dr Birkenhead a Consultant Microbiologist at Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust to the group.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

- **Membership Update**

Dr Kerr informed the group that Mr Tinkler had wrote to all the Lead Clinicians to invite them to nominate a microbiologist from their Trust who was involved in cancer care to be a member of the infection group.

Dr Godwin from Airedale Trust and Dr Birkenhead from Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust had volunteered to join the group.

Dr Kerr confirmed that everyone had received the YCN organisation and structure diagram with the agenda and it was highlighted that the Cancer Services Standards were not sent as these were currently been reviewed.

- **Policies and Guidelines**

ACTION: Dr Kerr to supply copies of guidelines and policies to Miss Carroll
Mr Tinkler to write to Network chairs with a list of all the policies for agreement

- **Portable water for cancer patients**

Dr Kerr confirmed that he had sent Mr Tinkler the patient information leaflet to circulate at the next User Partnership Group for their views.

- **Febrile Neutropenia Guidelines**

Dr Kerr explained that the Febrile Neutropenia Guidelines meeting had been cancelled. Work on guidelines was been carried out at individual Trusts including York and Harrogate and it was felt that it would be beneficial to have a regional meeting to discuss these further to prevent the reinvention of these.

- **Dietary advice for neutropenic patients**

Dr Kerr informed the group that Andrea Hildred, Evelyn Ward, Wan Mak and Gordon Cook were all interested in joining the sub group on dietary advice for neutropenic patients.

Dr Smith informed the group that he had been involved in a national group drawn up by the hospice and hospital infection society that did work on the production guidelines for immunocompromised patients. Although this work was well researched the work was never published and therefore was not widely distributed.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to e-mail all members of the Network to give them the opportunity to join the sub-group on dietary advice for neutropenic patients.

Dr Kerr to speak to the Advisory Committee of the foods Standards Agency on the microbiological safety of food re revisiting national guidelines if the YCN can produce network-wide guidelines as a starting point.

- **Oral Hygiene for Cancer patients**

Dr Kerr said that he had spoken to Prof Monty Duggall who had confirmed that there were national guidelines due to be published on oral hygiene for cancer patients and therefore suggested that rather than producing new guidelines these guidelines could be adapted to suit local needs if necessary.

- **The new cancer block SJUH – Infection related issues**

Dr Kerr noted that he had not yet received any feedback from Ms Porter on the concerns expressed by the group at the previous meeting.

4. Cancer Centre Update

No discussion

5. Work of the sub-groups

Fungal sub-group

Dr Kerr confirmed that the first part of the guidelines had been completed and acknowledged that there had been issues on how the draft guidelines had been circulated. Dr Kerr explained that they were now ready to work on the second part of the guidelines that covered prophylaxis and treatment. Dr Kerr said that the Fungal sub-group needed to meet with the Neutropenia group to discuss empirical therapy. The group agreed that it would be helpful if draft guidelines were uploaded to the YCN website to gain as wide an audience as possible for consultation of the paper. Dr Smith commented that the Haematology group would be very interested in seeing these draft guideline as the guidelines that were currently being finalised on the management of Lymphoma and Leukaemia did not include a detailed section on the management of infection.

ACTION: Dr Kerr to arrange a meeting with the Neutropenia group at the start of 2004

Dr Barton to send the draft guidelines to Miss Carroll to put on YCN website for consultation and to inform the Network groups where these guidelines can be accessed.

Viral sub-group

Dr Hale questioned if there were any guidelines for pre chemotherapy screening as he would like to work on these if he had support from the clinical side. Dr Smith suggested that Dr Hale contact Dr Andrew Jack, Consultant Histopathologist and Dr Peter Hillmen, Consultant Haematologist as they may be able to assist with the nomination of people.

6. Educational meeting

Dr Kerr gave an update on the Educational event planned for Spring 2004. The theme for the afternoon session was 'Preventing infections acquired from the environment'. Dr Kerr had approached Angela Galloway who had agreed to do a presentation on 'prevention of aspergillosis during building work' and Judy Hall who had agreed to do a presentation on 'portable water for neutropenic patients'. He had also approached Chris Porter to talk about 'Infection Control input into designing a new cancer facility'. The theme for the morning session was 'Preventing (mainly) endogenous infections' and highlighted that the group had previously agreed that it would be useful to have 'case' presentations. Dr Kerr asked if there were any volunteers that were willing to present for the morning session. Dr Barton said that he and Dr Young had previously presented a case study on 'Case aspergillosis in a child with haemophagocytic anaemia' and would approach Dr Young to see if she would be happy to present this. Dr Collins said that he possibly had a viral case study on 'Cryptosporidium' and in particular would highlight the management of this infection. Dr Smith said that he would try to find a case study on bacteria that could be presented.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to send some possible dates for the event to Dr Kerr

Dr Barton, Dr Collins and Dr Smith to contact Dr Kerr to confirm if they are able to present at the educational event.

7. Any other business

Dr Hobson said that there were many other groups working on guidelines and therefore emphasised that it was important to try to prevent reinvention of these.

Dr Kerr said although they were making the Network groups aware of the draft guidelines it would also be useful to make people such as the local microbiologist and people who would not normally access the website aware.

Dr Smith noted that in the IOG for haematology concerns had been raised on a statement that was not referenced which said that the term of the level 4 high dose therapy EPO without laminar flow was not acceptable. It was suggested that NICE who produced the document should be approached as to what was exactly meant by this statement and how this guideline could be put into practice.

ACTION: Dr Smith to contact Peter Hoffman of the Central HPA lab, Colindale of the NHS to ask his views on the statement.

8. Date, time and venue of next meeting

The group agreed the following dates for 2004 Infection Group meetings

Wednesday 24th March, 10.00am

Wednesday 2nd June, 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd September, 10.00am

Wednesday 1st December, 10.00am

**Wednesday 24th March 2004, 10.00am, Conference Suite,
Arthington House, Cookridge Hospital**