

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK

Infection Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 24th March, 10.00am
Conference Suite, Arthington House, Cookridge Hospital

Present:	Dr D Birkenhead Dr B Crosse	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Prof K Kerr (Chair)	Harrogate Health Care NHS Trust
	Ms J West Dr M Schweiger	Leeds Health Protection Unit
	Dr T Collyns Ms J West Dr N Young	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Mr B Tinkler Miss L Carroll	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Dr R Ashbee, Prof. M Baker, Dr R Barton, Dr R Hobson, Mr N Shaw, Dr G Smith and Dr N Todd.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

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

3. Matters arising

- **Potable water for cancer patients – feedback from User Partnership Group**

Prof Kerr informed the group that Mrs Margaret LeBeau, User Facilitator, Yorkshire Cancer Network had presented the potable water leaflet to members of the Information group (a sub group of the YCN User Partnership group) for their views. Prof Kerr highlighted that several members from the group had questioned the need for the leaflet for such a small amount of information. One person had suggested writing the following sentence on the appointment card 'Drink only boiled water. Keep in the fridge in a clean container covered in cling film.' He circulated the comments sent by email from members of this group who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Mr Tinkler explained that the Information group had noted that it was not clear who the target audience was and who the leaflet would be given to and when.

The group discussed as to whether the leaflet was necessary and concluded that this information could be combined with the information provided for dietary advice.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to email the 'Drinking water advice for patients with weakened immune system' leaflet to the YCN Infection group

Prof Kerr questioned what had been the progress on the installation of the filters for taps providing potable water at Leeds General Infirmary. Dr Young reported that the filters had still not been installed as there had been problems with supplies.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to put copies of the guidelines and policies on the YCN website and notify the YCN Infection Group, Lead Clinicians, Lead Managers and Lead Nurses of this.

- **Febrile Neutropenia Guidelines**

Prof Kerr informed the group that the Febrile Neutropenia working group were meeting on Thursday 25th March, 1.15pm, Conference Suite, Arthington House Cookridge Hospital. He explained that rather than 'reinventing the wheel' they planned to use the new LTH guidelines as a template. He also explained that this group would primarily liaise via email as much as possible.

Dr Crosse said that one of the senior Oncologist colleagues at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary had asked if this group could look as to whether they should be using gentamicin in regimens for empiric therapy of febrile neutropenia.

- **Dietary advice for neutropenic patients**

Prof Kerr informed the group that he had met with representatives from the Foods Standards Agency and had asked them about national guidelines for immunocompromised and cancer patients. They had acknowledged that these guidelines needed to be produced however they were currently working on other projects. He explained that they had highlighted that they would be very supportive of any work that was carried out by the YCN Dietary advice for neutropenic patients sub-group and noted that if this sub-group produced these guidelines there may even be a possibility for them to be adopted nationally.

Prof Kerr highlighted that due to the amount of apologies received the meeting planned to take place on Friday 24th March would have to be cancelled (this meeting has subsequently been rescheduled to Wednesday 16th June, 2.00pm, Leeds General Infirmary).

- **Educational meeting update**

Prof Kerr informed the group that the response to the Educational Event had been excellent and that they had almost reached the maximum numbers of delegates allowed in the Conference Suite. He therefore urged any members of the Infection group that wanted to attend this event and had not yet registered to do so immediately to avoid disappointment.

Miss Carroll informed the group that Pfizer and Pall Medical had confirmed that they would like to sponsor this event and therefore one more sponsor was required. Dr Young noted that she would provide Miss Carroll with a list pharmaceutical companies that may be interested in sponsoring the event.

Miss Carroll highlighted that it may not be possible to have interactive keypads as they were very expensive to hire. Prof Kerr suggested contacting Yorkshire Television to see if they were able to assist, but said that if it were not possible to hire the interactive keypads then they would have to look at an alternative way of interacting with the audience.

4. Cancer Centre Update

Mr Tinkler informed the group that the Leeds NHS Trust had published the full business case on Wednesday 17th March which had been circulated to all the Chief Executives of the 17 Primary Care Trusts. Mr Tinkler highlighted that Prof. Baker and the WYSHA Chief Executive had met with the Chief Executives and Chairs of the 17 PCT's to outline the need to sign up to the development. Mr Tinkler highlighted that the costs had been identified however noted that the £20 million that had been identified for transitional costs was actually £15 million for early payment for staff to be trained to be in post and the other £5 million was for the transitional costs.

The group discussed the microbiological concerns that they had for the new cancer build. Prof Kerr said that he was still very concerned about the ventilation arrangements as they were still planning to install chilled beams. He noted that from a very early stage they were very concerned with the design plans and had continuously offered their expertise and advise however had received no response. Dr Schweiger suggested writing a formal letter to Dr David Tompkins, Regional Microbiologist at the HPA highlighting their concerns. Dr Collyns noted that he was concerned that they were not kept informed as to what the plans were and said that he would raise this on an informal basis to Dr Mark Wilcox.

Prof Kerr highlighted that Ms Porter was presenting 'Building a new cancer unit – infection control considerations' at the Infection Educational event.

ACTION: Prof Kerr to write to Dr Tompkins, Regional Microbiologist at the HPA.

5. Work of the sub-groups

- **Fungal sub-group**

Dr Young informed the group that they were working on part 1 of the fungal guidelines and were hoping to discuss and finalise these at the next meeting in May.

Prof Kerr confirmed that everyone had seen the comments that had been received regarding the 'YCN Infection Group's draft guidelines for Invasive Fungal Infections (IFI) in immunocompromised Adults Haematology Patients' which had been circulated via email on 16th January 2004. Dr Young highlighted that the responses made to these comments were sent to the Infection Group via email and would be discussed further at the next fungal sub-group meeting.

Dr Young reported that the Trust guidelines that had been produced had now been approved.

- **Viral sub-group**

No discussion took place.

6. Any other business

Prof Kerr highlighted that the 'green book' had updated the chapter on varicella zoster virus infection and said that he felt that their guidelines could now be updated to reflect the update.

Prof Kerr confirmed that everyone had received the email announcement from Dr Paul McWhinney regarding the conference sponsored by the British Society for Medical Mycology taking place on 18th - 20th April 2004 at Bradford and noted that there were going to be some excellent speakers.

7. Date, time and venue of next meeting

**Wednesday 22nd September 2004, 10.00am, Conference Suite,
Arthington House, Cookridge Hospital**