

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Infection Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 6th April 2005, 10.00am
YCRN Meeting Room 1, Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital

Present:

Dr P Godwin	Airedale NHS Trust
Prof K Kerr (Chair) Ms B Stoddart	Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust
Dr R Hobson Ms S Liebersbach Ms K Midgley Ms E Ward Ms S Whiteley Ms G Woods Dr N Young	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Dr N Todd	York Hospitals NHS Trust
Miss L Carroll	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Dr R Barton, Dr D Birkenhead, Dr T Collyns, Dr B Crosse, Ms K Oddy and Dr G Smith.

Prof Kerr welcomed and introduced Dr B Stoddart to the group.

2. Minutes from the last meeting

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

Prof Kerr reported that the 'Provision of Safe Drinking Water for Cancer Patients with Immunocompromise' Guidelines are now available on the YCN website. He explained that concerns had been raised that it is not clear what specific group of cancer patients this is aimed for and comments had been made that this should also be made explicate on the water leaflet. An in-depth group discussion took place. Prof Kerr said that he will insert a paragraph in the 'Drinking water advice for patients with weakened immune system' leaflet is aimed for and asked Miss Carroll to circulate this water leaflet to the group.

New Oncology Wing (NOW)

It was reported that water within the NOW will be filtered at source.

Dr Hobson suggested they contact Ms Chris Porter, Specialist Advisor in Infection Control to ensure that the microbiological concerns they had regarding the ventilation arrangements for the NOW had been resolved. Dr Young said it is her understanding that the chilled beams are just for use within the oncology wards.

ACTION: Prof Kerr to write to Ms Porter to ask if the concerns previously raised on the chill beams at the NOW had been resolved

3. Matters arising

- **Neutropenic Dietary Guidelines**

Prof Kerr ensured members had received the Draft 'Dietary Guidelines for Immunocompromised Cancer Patients' circulated with the agenda. The group discussed this paper in detail and agreed to make a few changes. Prof Kerr agreed to contact Cravendale to find out what filtration systems they use to sterilise their milk. Prof Kerr reported that Black Sheep Brewery had informed him that virtually all UK beer from bottles or cans is pasteurised. Beer that continues to ferment in the bottle is not sterile. The group felt these guidelines should be used for highly immunosuppressed patients i.e. transplant patients only. Other issues discussed included how food is stored; the patient's psychological benefits of being able to eat what they want and what defines a food risk i.e. should one reported outbreak constitute a "High risk"? Ms Midgley prompted an in-depth discussion took place on whether acute leukaemia patient should be advised to following these guidelines from when they start chemotherapy until their treatment has finished changing dietary requirements can be very difficult for catering staff. Dr Todd felt that it was important that these guidelines should be only be used when the patient is strictly neutropenic due the psychological benefits for patient being able to eat what they like. Prof Kerr said he will include The Food and Drink Federation website URL as they have information on consumer information and food safety.

Ms Ward said she would make the amendments and then send this to Miss Carroll for circulation to the group.

The group discussed guidelines for patients when they go home and agreed that a section on safe eating should be included in the healthy eating guidelines listing foods should ideally be avoided by all not just those people who are immunocompromised. Ms Midgley said she would send a copy of the Healthy Eating Guidelines to Prof Kerr. The importance of noting that these guidelines are to help reduce the risk not eliminate the risk was raised.

ACTION: Ms Ward to make the agreed changes to the guidelines and send them to Miss Carroll for circulation to the group.

Ms Midgley to send the Healthy Eating Guidelines to Dr Kerr

Prof Kerr to contact Cravendale to find out what filtration systems they use for their milk

- **Educational meeting update**

Prof Kerr ensured members had received the feedback for the YCN Infection Education event that took place on Friday 28th May 2005.

He Kerr informed members of the plan to hold the next Infection Educational Event in November at the Pavilions of Harrogate. The group discussed the structure of the day.

The group agreed to have three case presentations in the morning. It was felt that it would be beneficial if they could have a case presentation from a patient on their perspective of going through a transplant or a nurse; social worker or patient presenting on protective isolation issues. Prof Kerr asked members to see if they have any patients willing to do this. The group felt that Dr Hale may be willing to do a case presentation on polyomavirus cases. Prof Kerr asked Miss Carroll to email the Infection group to see if they have any interesting positive fungal/bacterial/parasitic cases that they would be willing to present.

For the presentations in the afternoon Dr Hobson said that Leslie Milner may be willing to present on 'Radiology in the Immunosuppressed' and will contact him to see. Ms Liebersbach said she would be happy to present on the Febrile Neutropenic Guidelines with Ms Ward. Having a Pharmacist present on drug interactions and side effects was also suggested.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to email the group to ask if they have any fungal/bacterial/parasitic cases that they would be willing to present (actioned 23.05.05)

Dr Hobson to contact Leslie Milner regarding presenting at the educational event

Prof Kerr to contact Dr Hale to see if he is willing to present at the educational event

4. Cancer Centre Update

There was nothing to report.

5. Work of the sub-groups

- **Fungal sub-group**

Prof Kerr ensured that members had received the minutes of the Fungal group meeting that had taken place on 9th July 2004. Dr Hobson noted that no further meetings had taken due to a decrease in Mycology staffing levels resulting in an increase in work commitments.

- **Viral sub-group**

Dr Young said that although no meeting had taken place recently it was her understanding that Dr Hale is happy to be approached by the group on anything specific they would like to discuss.

Prof Kerr ensured members had received the draft 'Policy for the Prevention and Control of Varicella-Zoster Infections' that were circulated with the minutes. Dr Kinsey has raised concerns on VZV exposure and felt it was important to include something on exposure in schools/nursery; ward play areas and isolation of in-patients. The group asked if Prof Kerr could gain further clarity on her comment. Dr Kinsey is also concerned about the administration of VZIG (a human derived blood product) as the HPA have issued warnings regarding the use of certain blood products and the risk of VCJD noting that it is not clear how this relates to VZV and immunocompromised individuals. The group considered this comment and felt that this did not affect the guidelines.

ACTION: Prof Kerr to email Dr Kinsey regarding her comment on isolation and add a sentence in the guidelines on exposure

6. Peer Review

No discussion took place.

7. Asplenic Patients – Guidelines

Prof Kerr asked Miss Carroll to contact Dr Smith regarding Guidelines for Asplenic Patients.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to contact Dr Smith regarding Guidelines for Asplenic Patients (actioned 25.05.05)

8. Any other business

- Prof Kerr explained that he was still receiving comments from guidelines that had been finalised and asked members for their opinion on what approach they should take on this. The group agreed review guidelines every two years and have the review date on the cover of the guidelines. Miss Carroll was asked to see if the Network has a guide for producing guidelines.

ACTON: Miss Carroll to speak to Mr Tinkler re the Network having a policy on producing guidelines

9. Date, time and venue of next meeting

**Monday 6th June 2005, 10.00am, YCRN Meeting Room 1,
Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital**