

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK Infection Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 8th March 2006, 10.00am
YCRN Meeting Room 1, Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital

Present:

Dr P Godwin	Airedale NHS Trust
Prof K Kerr (Chair)	Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust
Dr T Collyns Dr A Hale Dr G Smith	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Dr N Todd	York Hospitals NHS Trust
Miss L Carroll Mr S Duffy Mr B Tinkler	Yorkshire Cancer Network

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Dr R Hobson, Ms K Midgley, Dr M Schweiger, Ms E Ward and Dr N Young.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters arising

- **Chair of YCN infection Group**

Miss Carroll reported no nominations for Chair had been received. Prof Kerr agreed to continue to stand as Chair whilst a Vice Chair is appointed. As attendance at the meetings is primarily from Microbiologists, members felt it would be beneficial if the Vice Chair could be a clinician from a medical/nursing background. Miss Carroll agreed to send an email requesting nominations for Vice Chair and Prof Kerr said he will approach specific individuals who may be willing to undertake this role.

ACTION: Miss Carroll to send an email requesting nominations for a Vice Chair

Prof Kerr to speak to specific individuals regarding becoming Vice Chair of the Group

- **Chair of Fungal sub-group**

Prof Kerr confirmed he had sent a letter to Dr Barton to thank him on behalf of the group for his valuable contribution and time spent as Chair of the Fungal sub-group. A discussion regarding the future of this sub-group took place. Members agreed specific fungal issues should be identified and discussed with the main Network Group and specific individuals could also meet on an ad hoc basis. Communication via email will be done where possible.

A discussion regarding the completion/circulation of the diagnostic guidelines took place. Prof Kerr agreed to discuss this further with Dr Hobson and report back at the next meeting. Prof Kerr said he will email Dr Hobson the existing treatment guidelines.

ACTION: Prof Kerr to discuss the circulation of diagnostic guidelines with Dr Hobson and email him the existing treatment guidelines

- **Seprin Prophylaxis – Local policies?**

Dr Patmore, Chair of the YCN and Y&HCCN Haematology Group had informed the group that he is only aware of guidelines for Seprin prophylaxis as part of the transplant guidelines and trial protocols and there is no overarching document.

Members felt there should be a Network consensus of the use of Seprin Prophylaxis and discussed how this piece of work could be taken forward. It was suggested they primarily map what is currently taking place within the Network. Dr Todd agreed to send Miss Carroll questions that can be raised under AOB at the YCN and H&YCCN Haematology Group meeting on Friday 10th March 2006.

The three questions raised at the Haematology Network meeting were;

1. *Would the Haematology Group feel that development of a consensus policy, on the use of Prophylactic Seprin for patients with cancer would be of value?*
2. *If so, would the members of the Haematology Group be willing to facilitate a fact find to assess existing practices?*
3. *Would one or more members of the Haematology Group be willing to participate in a joint working group with members of the YCN Infection Group?*

Members felt the development of a Network policy would be beneficial and Miss Carroll agreed to email the Haematology Leads at each Trust to ask them to send in their local policies.

ACTION: Dr Todd to send Network questions to be raised at Haematology Group meeting

- Prof Kerr reminded members of their previous discussions regarding the need for guidelines on diagnosing/testing to gain clarity on what services are available at the HPA and microbiology labs. Dr Hale said he will send guidance to the Network for circulation to the group.

ACTION: Dr Hale to send Miss Carroll guidance for circulation to the group

4. Guidelines

- **Safe eating for immunocompromised cancer patients**

Prof Kerr circulated the latest version of the 'Safe eating for immunocompromised cancer patients guidelines' and 'Safe eating for patients following a bone marrow transplant'. Members agreed the guidance should be amended to reflect Dr Schweiger's comments sent by email on 22nd February 2006. Prof Kerr noted the LTHT Environmental Health Officer has also made further recommendations which have been taken on board. Members agreed the guidelines should be taken to the YCN User Partnership Group/Editorial panel.

ACTION: Safe eating guidelines to be taken to the YCN User Partnership Group/Editorial panel

- **Safe eating for patients following a bone marrow transplant**

See above.

- **Guidelines for the prevention and treatment of infection in patients with an absent or dysfunctional spleen – update**

Dr Smith felt it was not necessary to reproduce a policy for the prevention and treatment of infection in patients with an absent or dysfunctional spleen as the Health Protection Unit have already produced a policy which is very good. Prof Kerr agreed to contact the Health Protection Unit to ask if they are happy to share this document with the Network and confirm they are happy for a link to their website to be put on the YCN's. Dr Smith said it may be beneficial if they produce a leaflet summarising the key points with a medical alert card and agreed to design an updated version on what has previously been used. Mr Tinkler said the Network can then look at production costs to decide if commercial sponsorship is appropriate or not.

ACTION: Dr Smith to design leaflet/card and send to Mr Tinkler

Mr Tinkler to look at production costs

Prof Kerr to speak to Dr Schweiger regarding the HPU Guidelines

5. Future of the sub-groups

No further discussion took place.

6. Any other business

- Prof Kerr reported that work is currently being undertaken in York to produce a policy which involves giving anyone with diarrhoea (post chemotherapy) prophylaxis. Concerns regarding this were raised at the Harrogate LPG Drugs & Therapeutics committee meeting. The group consensus is there is not enough evidence to support this approach and they would not recommend it.
- Prof Kerr prompted a group discussion regarding Nurses and Patient Group Directive (PGD) administering antibiotics in cases of Febrile Neutropenia. Mr Tinkler agreed to ask Ms June Toovey, Acting Lead Nurse for the Network to ask Lead Nurses for each trust to confirm what the current policies are.

ACTION: Mr Tinkler to ask Ms Toovey to confirm what the current policy at each Trust is

7. Date and Time of 2006 Meetings

Thursday 8th June 2006

Tuesday 5th September 2006

Tuesday 21st November 2006

8. Date and time of next meeting

**Thursday 8th June, 10.00am, YCRN Meeting Room 1,
Ida Nurses Home, Cookridge Hospital**