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BSMS Open Meeting 2004 Wednesday 19 May Hilton Hotel, Sheffield

Don't forget to book, the closing date for applications is Friday 30 April.

The morning part of this year's meeting will cover inventory management from two different perspectives. In the afternoon the focus switches to platelets including storage, stock management and clinical use. The previous two meetings have proved very popular; as well as an occasion to meet with colleagues the meeting is an ideal opportunity for junior as well as senior members of staff to learn about and discuss issues surrounding stock management.

Full details and an application form are available at www.bloodstocks.co.uk

BSMS Launched in Northern Ireland

The BSMS team took off on EasyJet from Luton Airport bound for Belfast very early one morning in late March. While there they facilitated a modified VANESA for Dummies training event. Each of the Northern Ireland hospitals supplied by the Belfast Blood Centre was represented. John Wylie from Belfast City hospital writes:

"The scheme will prove invaluable in the management of blood stocks, and from initial impressions it appears to be user friendly. It has the added advantage of easily produced graphs and tables, which will give blood bank staff a more informed picture of blood usage and can also be easily incorporated into audits reports and presentations..... The day was informative and enjoyable and will provide much local discussion in the forthcoming weeks and months."

The BSMS team arrived back at Luton late in the evening but on time agreeing that it had been a successful day out in Belfast.

BSMS and EDI

The BSMS team have recently had two meetings with most of the suppliers of blood bank IT software including Telepath, iSOFT, Torex, Masterlab, IBG, Sysmed, Cerner, and Technidata. The first meeting was a follow up to one held in December 2002 when the data requirements for the BSMS were explained to the suppliers. At that time there was a brief discussion around the electronic download of information required by the BSMS. At a meeting in December 2003 further discussions took place on an electronic download and the IT suppliers were keen to take this further so another meeting was arranged at which the details were discussed and this led to a specification being written. The NBS will need to do some work to take this development forward. We will keep you informed of progress.

Managing potential shortages

The BSMS are developing a web page for www.bloodstocks.co.uk with guidance and help for managing red cell shortages

Inventory Practice Survey

The surveys are currently being analysed and a report will be distributed to respondents by the end of April.

“VANESA 4 DUMMIES”

A “hands-on” training workshop on using VANESA facilitated by the BSMS team

Over 120 people have now attended a VANESA 4 DUMMIES training day. There is unanimous agreement that they are of real benefit to the attendees. We asked two "VANESA virgins" to write about their experiences.

Mike Comery, BMS 2, Blood Transfusion, Northampton writes:

My date with VANESA

At Northampton General Hospital, we have been participating in the Blood Stocks Management Scheme for over a year. Stock level and wastage data have been submitted religiously but we felt that there was a lot of data available we were not using. So the opportunity for some VANESA training and a day out to Birmingham was eagerly seized.

We started the day by introducing ourselves and eating doughnuts, care of Judith. Most people were VANESA Virgins but some had dabbled with her before.

The morning session was spent navigating through the various menus for data entry etc. This gave us a gentle reminder that it would be a good idea to start entering platelet and transfused red cells data. We plan to start in April. Time was also devoted to stock movements. Recent news preventing people who have received blood transfusions from donating may have a significant impact on blood stocks. To help minimise the impact we are currently involved in talks with another hospital regarding a blood component sharing scheme. Information regarding stock movements and the ability to view other hospital's data was extremely useful to this end.

In the afternoon, the emphasis was on extracting the most out of VANESA. Time was given to experiment and examine our own performance against our peers. At the end of the formal training, help was on hand to extract data and manipulate it to help present it in different formats.

There is a great deal of information available in VANESA to help establish a comprehensive haemovigilance program. We came as VANESA virgins but left as better men for the experience. Many thanks to Judith, Rob and Clive for a great day well spent.

Nikki Flanagan, BMS 1, Barnet Hospital writes:

I attended a VANESA 4 DUMMIES training course at Oxford Science Park. The first half of the day familiarises the user with the Internet and the structure of the Blood Stocks Management Scheme web site itself. The second half of the course enables the user to see the benefits of the Blood Stock Management Scheme in the way that all the different aspects of the data entry can be transformed into useful information in the form of graphs and datasets. This information can be used to benefit the laboratory in that it can help manage and track the units that are issued in terms of wastage, transfusions and the movement of units between hospitals. It can also help monitor wastage; the user can determine how the product is being wasted and which groups of blood in particular. It will also help the laboratory determine the optimum red cell stock level so that hospitals avoid overstocking and potentially wasting products.

The information provided on the web site can be manipulated to provide information not only for the individual hospital's performance but also enables a comparison to be made between the individual hospital and other hospitals in the scheme.

To conclude the blood stocks management scheme provides an accurate audit trail for blood and blood products, as long as the information that we provide is also accurate.

**Further dates for VANESA 4 DUMMIES are being arranged for the period
September – December 2004**

To register your interest, please contact Seena on 020 8258 2866 or email bsms@nbs.nhs.uk

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