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BSMS in Northern Ireland



Judith, John Savage (laboratory manager Northern Ireland Blood Service) and three hospital staff at the BSMS training day held in Belfast in March. Northern Ireland hospitals are now fully participating in the scheme.

BSMS in South Wales



South Wales hospitals supplied by the Welsh Blood Service will have the opportunity to join the scheme in September.

Registration forms will shortly be distributed and a training day organised for the Autumn.

Hospitals in Northern Ireland and Wales will have the opportunity to benchmark themselves against similar hospitals in England and North Wales

BSMS Open Meeting 2004

130 delegates attended the Open Meeting held at the Hilton Hotel, Sheffield. The morning programme took the form of a presentation from the scheme manager, which was interspersed with round table discussions. The presentation was in three parts; purpose, progress and possibilities. The main outcomes from the round table discussions were:

Purpose:

- The BSMS enabled better stock management
- Has raised stock management awareness through peer review

Progress:

- Most hospitals are entering data regularly
- The six monthly reports are too long and complicated
- Successful in reducing stock levels and wastage
- We have not achieved full participation
- Spotlight and newswire are useful

Possibilities

- Automated data collection would be welcomed
- Expansion to become a hub for transfusion data was a good idea but would require standardisation of coding systems
- Expanding the scheme to other blood services in Europe was received with caution

To view all the presentations from the open meeting, log on to www.bloodstocks.co.uk and follow the clicks in the events section

VANESA 4 DUMMIES – NEW DATES

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

- Friday 8 October 2004 – Manchester Blood Centre
- Wednesday 13 October 2004 – Newcastle Blood Centre
- Friday 19 November 2004 – Birmingham New Street

Mike Comery (Northampton General) wrote in Newswire 11

“We came as VANESA virgins but left as better men for the experience”

To register, log on www.bloodstocks.co.uk and follow the clicks in the ‘events’ section

BSMS and EDI – Exciting developments

In Newswire 11 we reported on developments with the IT companies over the electronic download of information required by the BSMS. The BSMS Steering Group met in June and agreed that the developments should go ahead. A project request document was submitted to the National Blood Service for software development to facilitate the download. The NBS systems steering group met in early July to assess all the project requests, the BSMS request was one of very few accepted for progression. Work is now beginning on the project plan.

SOFTWARE CHANGES

Upgrades to the VANESA software were agreed at the June Operations Group meeting. They include:

- improvements to the charts
- facilitate easier data entry
- provide information on your activity level
- more detailed issue data

If you have any suggestions for how to improve the VANESA software, please contact the BSMS team.

BLOOD STORAGE

Nearly 2000 red cell units were wasted in the whole blood supply chain due to “fridge failure” during the period April 2003 – March 2004. This is wastage that could be avoided.

The next edition of Spotlight will focus on blood storage and give case studies of fridge failures from hospitals and the NBS and outline some learning points.

In order that the scheme can gain more information on storage conditions and the use of blood tracking systems, the 2004 inventory practice survey (IPS) will focus on these two areas and transport both within the hospital and externally. The IPS will be distributed in November.



SCHEME PARTICIPATION

There are now 262 hospitals registered with the BSMS. If you haven't already done so, now's your chance – a registration form is included with this mailing. The number of hospitals participating by paper has also fallen. If you would like to discuss moving on to the internet and the benefits it brings, please ring Judith on 020 8258 2942. Finally, re-registration forms were sent out earlier in the year – if you have not sent yours back yet, please do so as soon as possible.

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