

JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES AMBULANCE LIAISON COMMITTEEMeeting held on Monday 26 November 2007Present

Dr Tom Clarke (Royal College of Anaesthetists), (Chairman)

Dr Fiona Jewkes (Hon Co-Secretary, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)

Dr Simon Brown	-	Ambulance Service Association
Dr Gillian Bryce	-	Ambulance Service Association
Prof. Charles Deakin	-	Royal College of Anaesthetists
Dr Tom Evans	-	Royal College of Physicians
Mr Roland Furber	-	British Paramedic Association
Dr Henry Guly	-	College of Emergency Medicine
Mr Mike Hayward	-	Royal College of Nursing
Mr Alan Howson	-	IHCD
Dr David McManus	-	Ambulance Service Association
Dr Iain McNeil	-	Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Fionna Moore	-	College of Emergency Medicine
Mr Andy Newton	-	British Paramedic Association
Mr Sam Oestreicher	-	Staff Side Ambulance Council
Dr Liam Penny	-	Royal College of Physicians
Mrs Claudette Reid	-	Royal College of Midwives
Dr John Scott	-	Ambulance Service Association
Dr David Smith	-	Royal College of Physicians
Dr John Stephenson	-	Directors of Clinical Care Group
Dr Simon Stockley	-	Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Howard Swanton	-	Royal College of Physicians
Mrs Fizz Thompson	-	Royal College of Nursing
Dr Alison Walker	-	College of Emergency Medicine
Dr Michael Ward	-	Royal College of Anaesthetists
Mr Mark Woolcock	-	Health Professions Council

In attendance for the meeting as a guest of Mr Andy Newton

Dr Mark Bloch

In attendance for item 11/02 only

Mr Keith Young, Critical Care Workforce Reference Group – Department of Health

11/01 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- a) The Chairman, Dr Tom Clarke welcomed new member Mr Mark Woolcock (Health Professions Council) to JRCALC and Dr Mark Bloch as guest of Mr Andy Newton.

- b) Apologies for absence were received from Mr Martin Flaherty (Hon Cosec), Dr Wim Blancke (RCA), Mrs Sue Dodd (DH), Mr Paul Phillips (Chief Executives Group), Mr Brian Robson (CFOA), Dr Tina Sajjanhar (RCPCH), Dr Quen Mok (RCPCH), Dr Tom Evans (RCP), Prof. Richard Williams (RCPsych), Darren Walter (CEM) and Dr Mick Colquhoun (RCUK).
- c) Dr Clarke reminded the Committee that posts relinquished by Dr J Cox (RCGP) and Dr P Jenkins (RCP) had not yet been filled and that nominations for replacements are welcomed. Nominees should approach the Chairman.

11/02 Invited presentation on Critical Care Paramedics (Keith Young, Critical Care Workforce Reference Group, Department of Health) (Doc.)

Mr Keith Young presented a paper (previously circulated with agenda items) to the Committee on Critical Care Paramedics (CCP) and the development of training courses to equip them with the basic skills to support critically ill patients. Mr Andy Newton who is working in this area had initially raised the subject.

Mr Young informed the Committee that the Department of Health welcomes equipping workers with such skills yet is concerned that there are different versions of the training schemes. Members of the JRCALC Committee were invited to comment on the specialist training which is required of these clinicians and to address the diversity of training. A number of points emerged from the discussion: -

Dr Tom Clarke informed the Committee that Dr Simon Brown and the Guidelines Sub-Committee had run a consultation on the Competence Framework for CCP. Dr Brown reported on the audit of respondents' comments, which included: -
 whether CCP are working autonomously or assisting a doctor;
 that the role of CCP could vary either working at the roadside or dealing with hospital transfers;
 whether rapid sequence induction (RSI) is included in the competences for CCP and are CCP to be supervised for RSI or work on their own and
 that it may not be possible to train CCP for neonatal cases.

Dr Simon Brown said that the feedback included a number of declarations of interest from universities involved in developing courses for CCP and that some were protective of giving information on these.

Mr Andy Newton reported that the University of Hertfordshire is working with other organisations to develop the role of the CCP.

Dr Mark Bloch who was involved in pre-hospital work in South Africa provided the Committee with further insight into the role of the CCP. Dr Mark Bloch had been approached by Mr Andy Newton four years ago to develop the role of the CCP in the UK, which had involved 18 months of consultation. It was decided that a strong clinical foundation was required to enable practitioners in pre-hospital settings to make decisions in clinical practice.

Dr Michael Ward asked if the Intensive Care Society had been consulted on CCP. Mr Keith Young said that the Society is part of the Department of Health Critical Care Workforce Reference Group.

Dr Fiona Jewkes said that there is a need for a distinction between the CCP and the ECP particularly when dealing with neonates.

Dr John Scott said it is important to focus on the team aspect of CCP and to debate their educational requirements.

Dr John Stephenson raised the issue of funding for the CCP, where they will be used including the need to get skills in the right place at the right time.

Mr Roland Furber informed the Committee that the British Paramedic Association (BPA) is establishing a Curriculum Framework on higher education, and CCP could be encompassed in this work.

Dr Alison Walker suggested the need for evidence both in the UK and abroad of the use of CCP and patient safety.

The discussion on CCP concluded with Dr Simon Brown informing Mr Keith Young that the JRCALC Guidelines Sub-Committee would feedback to the Department of Health on CCP on 6 December, and that it would also take up the offer of the BPA regarding the Curriculum Framework.

ACTION: Guidelines Sub-Committee

Dr Clarke thanked Mr Keith Young for presenting to the Committee.

11/03 To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2007

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

11/04 Matters arising in the Minutes

Prior to this discussion, Dr Michael Ward requested that the pages of future Minutes should be numbered.

c) 10/03.c Legal status / administrative arrangements

Dr Clarke informed the Committee that a letter has been received from Medical Protection Society in response to his enquiry concerning members' negligence cover with regards to the Guidelines. This indicated that JRCALC members' professional indemnity would provide cover for writing the Guidelines and protecting themselves if a claim is made against the Committee. The formation of a limited company would not of itself afford this cover.

With regards to the administrative arrangements for JRCALC, Dr Clarke reported that this was difficult to formulate until the Ambulance Service Network is established. Dr Fiona Jewkes also informed the Committee that it would be up to the new Officers of the Network to agree the arrangements for JRCALC.

Dr Clarke informed members that the JRCALC Executive Committee had also discussed with the Ambulance Service Association (ASA) Interim Chief Executive, Hayden Newton about the implications of the merger for JRCALC. Dr Jewkes provided Committee Members with an update on the merger between the Ambulance Service Association and the NHS Confederation. Dr Jewkes also informed the Committee that the NHS Confederation has made a response to a report on trauma without consulting the ASA, which has resulted in a number of media queries. This has now been addressed by Carl Rees, the ASA Communications Consultant.

d) 10/03.d Fire and Rescue National Framework

Dr Alison Walker had spoken to Mr Brian Robson about the Fire and Rescue National Framework and the first draft of the guidelines document will be sent to Committee members. Dr Walker is to meet with the Chair of their guidelines steering committee Barry Dickson, Chief Fire Officer of Greater Manchester as part of the next step to take the Framework forward.

ACTION – Dr Walker

e) 10/03.e Call-to-scene medical assistance (Alison Walker)

Dr Alison Walker, Dr Clarke and Dr David Zideman will meet to discuss this issue further as will the DOCCs Group.

ACTION – Dr Clarke, Dr Walker and Dr Zideman

f) 10/03.f Pre-hospital airway management review (Charles Deakin)

Professor Deakin informed the Committee that the Airway Management group had met in March and also this morning (26 November 2007). The review will be ratified and will be discussed in the March 2008 JRCALC Committee meeting.

Title has been changed to “A Critical Reassessment of Non-Drug Assisted Airway Management in Pre-hospital Care”.

ACTION – Professor Deakin

g) 10/06.d Endorsement to Kendall Thrombolysis Template

The Chair had formally approved JRCALC’s endorsement of Dr Kendall’s educational CD “the decision framework for STEMI” (though specifically noting its limited terms of reference).

h) 10/03. h CRB checks on ECPs (Martin Flaherty)

Discussion on this item was deferred in Mr Flaherty's absence.

11/05 Chairman’s Report**a) Consultations**

- i. MHRA MLX 341 Voluntary accreditation for Phase 1 Clinical Trial Units (12/10)
- ii. MHRA MLX 341 Amendments to the Medicines for Human Use (clinical trials) Regulations (7/12)
- iii. NICE:
 - Acute chest pain
 - Transient loss of consciousness
 - Head injury
 - Consent
 - Stroke
 - Feverish Illness
 - Meningococcal disease

Dr Clarke informed the Committee that a number of NICE consultations were being received and there were no objections to his recommendation that the Guidelines Sub-Committee should handle these in order to avoid any potential conflict between the Guidelines and NICE guidance.

ACTION - Guidelines Sub-Committee

Mr Roland Furber suggested that both the BPA and JRCALC could share the information used in their respective responses. Dr Simon Brown agreed that this would give more weight to the response.

b) BASICs – letter from Dr Zideman 02/03/07

There is a need to have various groups involved in this issue.

c) BMA Safe Transport in Ambulances

Dr Clarke and Dr Wim Blancke sit on this panel, which had been set up by the BMA Junior doctors Committee to provide guidance. They had been asked to contribute a short section on the competencies required for transport which had been submitted.

d) JRCALC-endorsed Sandell Tape

The Chair showed a Sandell Tape which he had been sent following the Committee's endorsement of the product.

e) Military Paramedic Conference Sandhurst 23/07/07

Dr Fiona Jewkes made a presentation at the Conference for HPC registered paramedics in the military. Paramedics within the military are keen to develop initiatives with the civilian ambulance service to develop their skills. Dr Jewkes informed the Committee that links have also been made with the Search & Rescue Services in Scotland.

f) Document received " Promoting Innovative End of Life Care Practice with Ambulance Trusts" 08/08/07

This document had been forwarded to Dr Clarke by Mr David Whitmore of London Ambulance Service and concerned the arrangements with Care Homes and DNRs, and End of Life Care Plans. Professor Charles Deakins informed members that he has looked at this issue with the BMA.

Dr Simon Brown asked who is involved in the National DNR card and was informed that it is the National Resuscitation Council.

g) DOAS: National Consensus Event 25/09/07

The Committee did not discuss this issue.

h) Animax: Resuscitation Device 21/09/07

This resuscitative device compresses and ventilates at the same time and had been submitted for JRCALC's comment. It was agreed that this was not a role undertaken by the Committee.

i) AAGBI "Pre-hospital Anaesthesia" endorsement 12/09/07 (Doc.)

Feedback on the circulated document has been collated by Dr Clarke and forwarded to the Working Party on Pre-hospital Anaesthesia. The final draft will be available at Easter 2008.

j) Invitation to Chair to speak at the BPA Conference in Teeside 07/12/07

Dr Clarke is to speak at the BPA Conference on the future of JRCALC. Mr Roland Furber informed the Committee that after a slow start attendance for the BPA Conference was increasing.

k) Stroke Emergency Workshop 21/06/07

This item was listed in error and had already been discussed at the last meeting.

l) HPC Fitness to Practice Annual Report 09/07

Mr Mark Woolcock informed the Committee that over four years, 2% of all registrants had been called for Fitness to Practice and that the situation for paramedics was similar to the other 12 groups of HPC registrants. There is a requirement to look at all groups to make any deductions regarding paramedics, and Mr Woolcock said that there is a need to be cautious with regards to the figures and to consider whether Ambulance Trusts are passing the reviews of paramedics to the HPC when they could review this themselves.

Mr Sam Oestricher said that UNISON has a number of concerns regarding the issue and are in the process of dialogue with the HPC regarding the issue of fitness to practice. There is a need to inform paramedics what is required from them.

Mr Mark Woolcock said that the HPC as a regulator is keen to identify trends and feedback to professional bodies to address this situation.

Mr Roland Furber informed the Committee that the BPA has looked at the HPC figures and observed that the majority of complaints were against paramedics who have not been through the higher education route.

The report is available on the HPC website – www.hpc.org.uk

m) Ambulance Review Recommendations Status Report September 2007 (Doc)

Dr Clarke informed the Committee that this document was supplied for information only. A copy had already been sent to Dr John Stephenson (DOCCs) for discussion.

11/06 Cardiac Care Group (Howard Swanton)

Dr Swanton reported that the Cardiac sub-group had met that morning.

a) STREAM

Dr Swanton spoke briefly about the STREAM trial which is to look at pre-hospital thrombolysis vs. angioplasty and the critical importance of ambulance service involvement which would be vital to its success. The protocol is not finalised at the moment.

b) Enoxaparin and Clopidogrel

A licence for Enoxaparin is still awaited. Recommendations were made for the use of Clopidogrel in addition to aspirin depending on whether the patient was to receive primary angioplasty or pre-hospital thrombolysis. In both cases an oral dose would be administered with due regard to the correct dosage and presence of contraindications.

Dr Simon Brown reported that some services are holding back from using the medication due to cost issues. Dr Swanton informed Committee members said that it takes 3 to 4 hours for the medication to have any effect. Dr Clarke suggested that an interim guideline should be developed for its use and this will be progressed by Dr Simon Brown and the Guidelines Sub-Committee.

ACTION: Guidelines Sub- Committee

11/07 Guidelines Sub-Committee (Docs.) (Simon Brown)

Dr Simon Brown presented a paper at the meeting (circulated with the agenda items) and reported that the Guidelines Sub-Committee is planning to produce a guidance document on Suspension Induced Shock Syndrome and whether there is a causal link between the risks of sudden death when laying a patient flat after they have been suspended for a long time. The Sub-Committee has also considered the subjects of pelvic trauma and death, and found that this is more likely to occur in adults than children, and the use of haemostatic agent found to be effective in military settings which may be useful in terrorist's incidents.

11/08 Ambulance Service Association (ASA) (Fiona Jewkes)

Further to the earlier discussion on the ASA, Dr Fiona Jewkes informed Committee Members that the ASA is waiting for the appointment of the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service Network; the new organisation, to be formed from the merger of the ASA with the NHS Confederation.

11/09 POETs Course RCOG approval (Helen Simpson)

In Helen Simpson's absence, the Committee were informed that the first course would take place on 25 March 2008.

11/10 Health Professions Council

The agenda item had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

11/11 British Paramedic Association

Mr Roland Furber informed Committee Members that the review of the Curriculum Framework on Higher Education was on target, and the Reference Group would meet on 27 November.

The BPA Conference will take place on 7 December and flyers with information on the conference will be available at the JRCALC Conference and on the BPA website.

The online CPD system is available on the BPA website.

The BPA had useful discussion with the HR Directors Group.

11/12 HEADG (Henry Guly)

The Committee were informed by Dr Guly that HEADG had met on 10 July, and were due to meet on Thursday 29 November.

Dr Guly informed the Committee that the group had no new information to report.

11/13 Any Other Business

The Chair reported that an email had been received on 7/11/07 from Professor Keith Porter agreeing with the stated need for improved working between all stakeholders involved in pre-hospital care, and expressing a wish that any disseminated Faculty of Pre-hospital Care (FPHC) messages should be fully compliant with JRCALC Guidelines. To this end he invited a nominated JRCALC member as a member of the FPHC Board. It was pointed out that many JRCALC members are already on the FPHC board and that this representation should suffice. Dr Clarke said that he would pursue this with Prof. Porter.

Dr Fiona Jewkes provided an update on the HART and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Programme. The North West and West Midlands Ambulance Services were providing USAR training for 15 people. HART will meet on 27 January 2008 before the next USAR training.

Dr Clarke reminded members that the JRCALC Conference would be taking place tomorrow on Tuesday 27 November.

11/14 Dates of next meetings

Wednesday 12 March 2008 (Committee) at the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House
Wednesday 9 July 2008 (Committee) at the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House