

Synopsis of proceedings of JRCALC Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2001 at The Royal College of Physicians, London.

1) Matters arising from meeting held on 8 March 2001

- (It was felt that the discussion on airway filters and re-usable items had been inadequately recorded in the previous Minutes, and it was agreed that this should be carried forward as an agenda item at the November meeting.)
- *Progress on PECS.* This subject continues to arouse widespread interest but definitive progress continues only slowly.
- *Appointment of pharmacist observer.* The BNF has agreed to nominate a representative as observer.
- *Ethics.* The Chairman has written to Professor Grimley Evans (Chair, RCP Ethics Committee) about specific problems that had been drawn to JRCALC's attention and was awaiting a reply. Ethical considerations related also to data-linkage between separate Trusts within the NHS, and Professor Langman suggested writing to the Chief Medical Officer to i) gain advice on /draw attention to the specific ethical problems presented by pre-hospital research and ii) draw attention to restrictions on data transfer and its impact on audit. It was also agreed that it would be most appropriate for the Chairman to meet personally with a Professor of Medical Ethics, Professor Doyal, who had offered his professional advice.
- *DoH Support.* Mr Gron Roberts reported that he had submitted JRCALC's application for funding in March 2001. Funding for routine administration had been agreed but currently no funds had been identified with which to support audit and guideline development.
- *ASA Strategic Review.* This Review was now complete and available on request.
- *Read Codes.* The Chairman had reported to the NHS Information Authority that JRCALC would wish to be part of any future discussions on Read codes recognising the importance and also the difficulties inherent in pre-hospital coding, but no further information had yet been forthcoming.
- *Universal Morphine Policy.* Mr Willis that the subcommittee set up to consider guidance on morphine use was to meet on 17th September. Analgesic use in children would be reconsidered as an agenda item at the next meeting (Dr Jewkes)

2) Reports from Executive Committee

The Chairman noted that minutes from all extra Executive committee meetings (teleconfs) had been circulated and would continue to be so as they occurred.

3) Joint ASA/JRCALC Clinical Effectiveness Committee

Liaison with CEEU and MINAP was ongoing but little progress so far with audit because of funding uncertainties. It was hoped that the SEACAG database for

use by Ambulance Trusts would be ready in July. A further meeting with CEEU is to be held in August. Trusts using thrombolytics must ensure that all relevant data was supplied to Stuart Nicholls.

4) Update from Guidelines Subcommittee

Chris Carney showed a draft version of the Guidelines which was intended to fulfill the "pocketbook version" requirements. Much discussion ensued on how this version should be produced. Although a printed booklet was not supported the sponsored production of an electronic version for downloading was well received.

5) Update from Thrombolysis Subcommittee

The Chairman reported concerns that diabetic retinopathy had been deemed an absolute contraindication to the use of thrombolytics. After discussion with the MCA and the EMEA (the European Regulatory Authority) both had agreed the contraindication inappropriate and to reconsider the matter.

Maggie Dunn (Unison) commented that thrombolytic risks were of concern to paramedics and it was important for them to be reassured.

3 other items were noted: 1) the BI training package was now available on CD-ROM 2) Dr Booth's thrombolytic checklist had been circulated to Trusts, and 3) NICE were reviewing pre-hospital thrombolytic administration.

6) JRCALC/ASA Subcommittees

It was agreed that there was confusion and misunderstanding regarding these subcommittees. The three principal subcommittees are:

1) Guidelines Subcommittee (JRCALC). It was agreed that the Chair of this subcommittee, Dr Iain McNeil, would make available it's Constitution to the Main Committee as an appendix to the Minutes.

2) Clinical Effectiveness Subcommittee (JRCALC/ASA). Chairman of this subcommittee was Mr Sam Jones, its role being of value with respect to both clinical effectiveness and audit.

3) Training Subcommittee (ASA). Whilst individual JRCALC members are on this committee it has no formal relationship with JRCALC.

7) Other items discussed.

These included an item on the need for universal pre-determined responses (Dr McNeil) which after discussion was deemed a local operational issue, the coming annual JRCALC Conference and communication pathways and the need for members to provide feedback to their respective Colleges

8) Dates of next meeting(s)

Thursday 1 November 2001

Friday 2 November 2001 (Conference)

Thursday 7 March 2002

Thursday 4 July 2002