

JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES AMBULANCE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Monday, 12 July 2006

Present:

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

Dr Iain McNeil (Hon Co-Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners)

Mr Martin Flaherty (Hon Co-Secretary, Ambulance Service Association)

Dr Chris Carney (Ambulance Service Association), (Treasurer)

Dr Mick Colquhoun	-	Resuscitation Council UK
Dr Tom Evans	-	Royal College of Physicians
Mr Rodney Gunn	-	Royal College of Surgeons
Mr Mike Hayward	-	Royal College of Nursing
Prof. Michael Langman	-	Ambulance Service Association
Dr David McManus	-	Ambulance Service Association
Dr Quen Mok	-	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Mr Sam Oestreicher	-	TU Side NHS Staff Council
Prof. Tom Quinn	-	Royal College of Nursing
Dr Helen Simpson	-	Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Dr Simon Stockley	-	Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Howard Swanton	-	Royal College of Physicians
Dr Alison Walker	-	College of Emergency Medicine

Observers

Mr M Cooke	-	Ambulance Service Association
Mr R Diment	-	Ambulance Service Association
Ms S Dodd	-	Department of Health
Mr Alan Howson	-	ICHD
Miss Lotte Large	-	JRCALC Administrator
Mr Philip Powell	-	Fire Service Inspectorate
Mr Mark Whitbread	-	London Ambulance Service NHS Trust

07/01 Welcome and Apologies for absence

- (a) The Chair welcomed the Committee to the Royal College of Anaesthetists and noted the move of JRCALC meetings from the RCP to the RCA.
- (b) Members welcomed Dr Alison Walker (College of Emergency Medicine) to the Committee and also Dr Helen Simpson (Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) who replaces Dr Kim Hinshaw on the Committee. Dr Chris Carney (The Ambulance Service Association) was welcomed as taking over from Mr Mike Willis as the new Treasurer for JRCALC.
- (c) Members also welcomed Mark Whitbread as an observer from London Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

- (d) Members congratulated Professor Tom Quinn on receiving a medal from the Royal College of Nursing.
- (e) The Chairman introduced Miss Lotte Large who was taking over from Simon Land as Committee Administrator. Lotte would be working from the ASA office which would be the correspondence address for JRCALC in the future.
- (f) Apologies for absence were received by Dr Simon Brown (Ambulance Service Association), Dr Mathew Cooke (College of Emergency Medicine), Dr Jim Cox (Royal College of General Practitioners), Professor Charles Deakin (Royal College of Anaesthetists), Mr Roland Furber (British Paramedic Association), Dr Henry Guly (College of Emergency Medicine), Mr Pat McFadden (Health Professions Council), Dr Fionna Moore (College of Emergency Medicine), Mr Andy Newton (British Paramedic Association), Mr Phil Pimlott (Ambulance Service Association), Mrs Claudette Reid (Royal College of Midwives), Dr Tina Sajjanhar (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health), Dr John Scott (Ambulance Service Association), Dr David Smith (British Cardiovascular Society), Ms Kathryn Stelfox (Department of Health) and Professor Richard Williams (Royal College of Psychiatry).

07/02 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

06/01 (c) - It was noted that Mr Mike Hayward (Royal College of Nursing) did send his apologies to the last meeting as did Miss Kathryn Stelfox (Department of Health).

06/03 (a) – The Chairman clarified that the amount of money agreed for donation to the Research forum was £1000 and not £5000 as had been reported by EMS.

06/04 (biii) – Members noted that the Ambulance Services are included within Connecting for Health.

Following amendments the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2006 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

07/03 Matters arising on the Minutes

(a) 06/03 (a) Ambex – JRCALC/999 Research Forum

The Chairman announced that Nadine Levick from the USA won the prize of £75 for her paper on the safety of EMS vehicles. He praised the paper and also the success of AMBEX 2006.

(b) 06/03 (b) Committee membership

Members agreed that in light of the current situation due to the reconfiguration of Ambulance Trusts in England, the current membership needs to be assessed.

Members noted that there needs to be a closer relationship between Medical Directors of Ambulance Services and JRCALC. It was agreed that this was an issue that needed to be looked at in the coming months.

The Chairman stated that the BASMED discussions have not been forgotten and this was also something that needed to be looked at again due to the reconfiguration.

The Chairman reminded members that Dr Iain McNeil's time as Honorary Co-Secretary for JRCALC was drawing to an end. Dr Iain McNeil stated that he was happy to continue his role until a replacement was found. It was noted that expressions of interest had been received from Dr Wim Blancke (RCA), Dr Fiona Jewkes (FRPCH) and Dr Henry Guly (College of Emergency Medicine). Thanks were expressed to Dr Iain McNeil for all his work as Hon Cosec during his tenure.

It was agreed by the Committee that the issue of membership would be looked at again once the situation regarding the reconfiguration had settled.

It was also noted that Mr Sam Oestreicher represented the TU Side NHS Staff Council and not the Staff Side Ambulance Council. Mr Oestreicher advised that his colleagues from the GMB and TGWU had agreed to him undertaking this role.

(c) **06/04 (bii) Letter from HM Coroner London Southern District re. Positional Asphyxia**

The Chairman reported that the JRCALC guidelines had been adjusted with regards to Restraint Asphyxia. A recent presentation had also been given at a paramedic meeting by Prof. Richard Williams, and the Chairman stated that an account of this presentation would appear as part of the report on this meeting in a forthcoming issue of Ambulance UK.

It was also noted that Professor Charles Deakin had been invited to join a workgroup set up by the metropolitan police service. There had been no feedback from Professor Deakin to date.

(d) **06/03 (d) Committee move/legal status/administrative arrangements**

The Chairman reported that a letter was sent to Colleges seeking their agreement (by 28 March 2006) to go ahead with the move. There was no adverse feedback from the letter and a copy of the legal structure had been provided to the Royal College of Surgeons on request.

The Chairman reported that they were having problems seeking insurance but were in discussions with the company that works with the Resuscitation Council. He assured the Committee that this will be progressed as quickly as possible.

It was noted that the Department of Health has agreed the funding for JRCALC for this year but that the terms for future funding will be changing. Members also noted that Ambulance Services might contribute to funding for JRCALC in the future and that this will need to be discussed.

The Chairman reminded members that any funding is for the running of JRCALC itself, as its representative organisations pay for members to attend the committee.

(e) **06/03 (f) FAEM/BAEM amalgamation**

It was noted that there had been no recent communication and that the Chairman would need to speak to Dr Henry Guly before feedback could be given.

(f) **06/03 (f) Fire and Rescue National Framework**

Mr Powell confirmed that the document was approved by the CFOA (Chief Fire Officer's Association).

It was noted that a paper should be available by the week beginning 17 July 2006, but it is waiting for approval across the Fire and Rescue Service. Interested partners would also be approached to make sure that everything is correct.

Members noted that once the paper had been approved it would be made available to JRCALC.

It was also noted that it was a sensitive subject and that the more publicly available it is made the better the consequences would be.

(g) **06/03 (g) BMA "Safe Transport of Patients in Ambulances Working Group"**

Mr Newton had been nominated to attend the group but it was noted that there has only been one meeting so far and dates have not been set for the future. It was also noted that there are two new Chairmen of this workgroup.

Feedback would be requested from Mr Newton at the next meeting.

(h) **06/03 (j) ECP/HPC dual registration**

A letter had previously been sent to Lord Warner which did not support dual registration of this nature. More recently an email had been received from Skills for Health. In the email it was stated that it represented a curriculum framework for ECPs for approval and continued to justify the case for dual registration.

Members agreed that a clear response was needed to this matter. Dr Carney noted that if the curriculum is accepted then there would then be need for a separate consultation on the registration of ECPs.

It was noted that the HPC also had reservations about the proposals from Skills for Health and was willing to work with others to secure single registration.

Mr Hayward commented that the Royal College of Nursing had been approached by a group from Manchester to support the move. The RCN made it clear that they would not.

Members noted that Skills for Health may need to be reminded of their remit, which is the development of competency frameworks, and that making recommendations for registration is not necessarily something they should get directly involved in.

It was agreed that further discussion was needed once the report had been published and that a constructive response was needed. All members of the Committee were encouraged to feed back their responses to the consultation to the Chairman.

ACTION: A//

(i) **06/04 (biv) DH budget application**

The Chairman reported that the application was in process and that funding should be received shortly.

(j) **06/04 (bv) Letter from David Bogod - AAGBI on Consent**

The Chairman reported that the Association of Anaesthetists (AAGBI) had produced a recent booklet on "Consent to Treatment" with respect to learning practical procedures, particularly in anaesthesia (endotracheal intubation).

Members noted that a letter written by the Chairman, Professor Deakin and David Zideman was sent to the AAGBI to clarify their views on the matter of Paramedics practising anaesthesia.

The AAGBI responded by agreeing to publish this letter in their newsletter (*Anaesthesia News*). A copy of this was tabled at the meeting, and an account of the response summarised on the JRCALC website.

07/04 Chairman's Report

(a) **Consultations**

(i) Trust reconfiguration consultation feedback 20/03/06

The Chairman noted that with regards to the consultation, views from the Committee were summarised and included in the letter that was sent.

(ii) Resuscitation Council Dental Standards for endorsement 03/04/06

The Chairman reported that he had endorsed the standards after conferring with Mick Colquhoun. Members noted this endorsement.

(iii) MLX333: Records of POMs supplied through Pharmacies

(b) **Letter from SYAS re. ROLE Guideline**

A letter had been received from South Yorkshire Ambulance Service with a copy of the Coroner's Report for comment. It was noted that the ROLE Guidelines were not at fault but the JRCALC guidelines have subsequently been adjusted in detail.

The Chairman reported that he had replied to SYAS as requested with a copy to the Coroners Office.

(c) **AAGBI Working Party on prehospital anaesthesia 31/0/06**

Professor Deakin had been invited to sit on, and would represent JRCALC at, this group. This was approved by all members.

ACTION: Professor Charles Deakin

(d) **Meeting at EMAS 17/05/06 (reconfiguration and funding)**

It was noted that the Chief Executives of the newly configured Ambulance Trusts would each be taking a lead on 'Taking Healthcare to the Patient'.

Members noted that the Chief Executive of EMAS (Paul Phillips) will be taking the Clinical lead. Mr Phillips is still waiting for confirmation of funding for his lead in this.

It was agreed that a list showing the leads taken by each Chief Executive would be circulated with these minutes.

07/05 Call-to-scene medical assistance (Chairman)

The Chairman reported that there are problems with the situation of calling out doctors to emergencies out of hospital for expert help (eg to administer anaesthesia).

Alison Walker agreed to feedback on the situation in her local area.

It was agreed that the guidelines are not specific on this matter. Members also agreed that the RCN and BASICS need to be more heavily involved in this. Again, Alison Walker agreed to look into this. Dr Carney stated that BASICS could respond well to issues surrounding this topic.

All members agreed that there is a geographical issue in the matter of administering anaesthesia in the field; in some areas Paramedics will be the only medical professionals available in the area. The importance of bringing clarity to the difference in major and individual incidents was also brought to attention.

It was agreed by members that JRCALC will need to provide a steer for Ambulance Services as to what is expected.

ACTION: Alison Walker, ALL

07/06 Evidence base for novel medical devices (Chairman)

Members recognised that new medical devices were being introduced without the evidence to support their safety. The question was raised whether it is necessary to replace old devices with new ones, which might be less effective, and if so, that their safety must be proved before members of staff are given them to use.

Members also agreed that it was important to be careful that devices which are designed for one purpose are not used for another. This could inadvertently cause harm to the patient.

The Committee agreed that MHRA and NICE should be involved and maybe develop a policy and help to advise JRCALC.

Dr Carney stated that the Ambulance Services would welcome JRCALC's support on this matter. Professor Quinn also mentioned that it was important to manage staff expectations regarding new devices.

It was also noted that the added costs of introducing new equipment was an issue to be considered.

It was agreed that the Resuscitation Council (Tom Quinn) and JRCALC would write a letter to NPSA, NICE and MHRA on the matter.

ACTION: Professor Tom Quinn/Resuscitation Council, Chairman

07/07 Report from the Cardiac Care Group (Howard Swanton)

Howard Swanton stated that the Cardiac Care Group meet two times a year, usually immediately before full meetings of JRCALC. At today's meeting Dr John Birkhead, the Chairman of MINAP, had attended. He spoke of re-occlusion of pre-hospital thrombolysis. He reported that rates of 7½-10½% of patients were re-occluding. The findings showed that patient weight might be an important factor in this, though they are still looking for more specific details.

Members agreed that patient weight must be taken more seriously by Ambulance Services in the treatment of thrombolysis. It was also agreed that Dr Swanton would report back to the committee after the next Cardiac Care Group meeting.

It was noted that JRCALC encourages the use of UFH in prehospital thrombolysis and at least twenty Ambulance Trusts are following the guidelines in this respect.

Evidence has come to light showing that LMWH may be more beneficial to the patient than UFH. The question that needs to be discussed is whether or not this is reason to start using the new drug? The Chairman stated that he would write a letter to Gordon Duff, with support from the Cardiac Care Group, as it is not licensed for the purpose – STEMI.

Members agreed it was not a matter that JRCALC could decide and that they should concentrate on Heparin. It was noted that MINAP data shows that prehospital treatment improves mortality rate in thrombolysis patients.

07/08 Review of Prehospital airway management strategy (Charles Deakin)

The Chairman stated that he wrote a letter last year regarding competency which said that JRCALC would not sanction a reduction in the numbers of intubations undertaken by paramedics during training. It was noted that many studies had looked at intubation as a prehospital treatment, with little evidence that this has a beneficial effect on clinical outcome.

It was proposed that JRCALC form a working group to include Paramedics and also members from BASICS to come up with a recommendation for intubation.

Dr Carney agreed that an in depth review of intubation and competence is needed. Mr Powell stated that it is not wise to focus on repetition of intubation as a judge of competency. It was agreed by all that a proper assessment is needed.

The Chairman stated that he would contact Professor Deakin and that they would form a workgroup including BASICS and paramedics.

It was noted and agreed that any changes should be included within the curriculum guidelines for paramedics.

ACTION: Chairman

07/10 Report from the Joint Ambulance Service Association/JRCALC Clinical Effectiveness Committee (Mark Cooke; Gillian Bryce)

At this point in the meeting Item 10 was brought forward due to Mr Cooke leaving early for a prior appointment.

Members noted the tabled update prepared by Mr Cooke. A copy of this will be included with the minutes.

The Chairman invited members to join this Committee. Interested parties were asked to contact either the Chairman or Mr Cooke.

07/09 Report from the Guidelines Sub-Committee (Simon Brown)

Members noted the tabled update prepared by Dr Brown.

The Chairman apologised for the delay with the Guidelines and explained that it was due to the formatting adjustments and the updating process of the new Guidelines.

The question of costing was raised. Mr Howson informed members that they were still in discussions and that there was no news as of yet. The Chair stated that a framework for pricing of licensing had been drawn up.

07/11 Report from the Health Professions Council (Pat McFadden)

The Chairman stated that there was nothing to report on this item.

07/12 Report from the British Paramedic Association (Andy Newton)

The Chairman stated that there was nothing to report on this item.

07/13 Report from HEADG (Henry Guly)

Members noted that a new Higher Education Ambulance Development Group was up and running and that they have been working closely with the ASA.

07/14 Conference 2006

Members were asked to submit topics for the conference to the Chairman. The items that are to be included so far are:

- Stroke
- Cardiac arrest – survival and clinical outcome
- Intubation
- NHS Pathways
- Positional/harness hypoxia
- New JRCALC Guidelines
- The handover of care in hospitals
- MINAP
- Interhospital Transfers: Intra-Aortic balloon pumps, neonates
- Presentations the three JRCALC scholarships work.

It was noted that if a space was made available it might be useful to include a presentation on Hotzone Working in the conference programme.

07/15 Any other business

(a) Audio recording of patients

Members noted that there were issues of consent and legality surrounding the use of audio and visual recordings of patients. It was agreed that the subject needed to be discussed further so clear guidelines could be made.

ACTION: A//

07/16 Dates of next meetings

All further Committee meetings will be held at the RCA

Monday 27 November (Committee)
Tuesday 28 November (JRCALC Conference)

Dates for 2007:

Monday 12 March 2007 (Committee)
Wednesday 11 July 2007 (Committee)
Monday 26 November (Committee)
Tuesday 27 November (Conference)

NB. At the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Churchill House, London
