


ASSOCIATION OF MERSEY INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

A.M.I.C.U.

Minutes of the fourteenth meeting of AMICU held on
3rd March 1995.

Supported with an educational grant from ROUSSEL
and ELI-LILLY.

Present: Dr S Mostafa (Chairman) 
Dr A Kent Dr J Gannon
Dr J Chambers Dr E Williams
Dr R Griffiths Dr D Jayson (Secretary)
Dr J Harper Dr R Macmillan (Treasurer)
Dr S Tigue Dr E Shearer
Dr R Nelson Dr J Dalton
Mr P Nee Dr C Harris
Dr P Charters Dr W Horton

Apologies: Many and various (see written notes)

01/95 Minutes. As the last meeting had been a joint meeting with all North West groups the minutes had not been prepared (secretary's apologies). The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th September 1994 were circulated and approved.

02/95 Matters arising. The loss of the Regional Medical Advisory Committee and subcommittees was discussed. It was agreed that groups such as AMICU would now be necessary to fill this gap, providing advice and disseminating information.

03/95 Bed Audit. Dr Horton presented an ICU bed audit covering the 'old' Mersey Region over a period of 101 days. There are 43 ICU beds in this area with an occupancy of 89%. It was noted that on 5 days of the study there were no ICU beds available. It was agreed that this study should be continued and presented at an ICS meeting. *

04/95 Transfer Audit. Dr Harris reported on the ongoing transfer audit. There had been feedback from 3 hospitals. Referrals and acceptance of referrals were now mainly at consultant level. The transfer guidelines created by AMICU had now been accepted by the whole of the North West via the North West ICU Audit Group and the Protocols, Definitions and Guidelines Group of the Regional Intensive Care Review. The number of 'satisfactory' transfers had increased from 40% to 72%. There was still no use of transfer forms to record data routinely during transfer and there are several cases where guidelines are not being followed.

Various transfer problems were discussed:

1. Transferring a recovering ICU patient or an acute admission.
2. Responsibility for a patient requiring Intensive Care not yet admitted to Intensive Care.
3. Responsibility for stabilisation and place of stabilisation.
4. Maximum length of time/distance for transfer.

It was noted that Mersey Ambulance did not have full monitoring equipment required for transferring Intensive Care patients and that currently this was provided by the referring unit.

05/95 Critical incident audit. Dr Harris presented a critical incident audit from Whiston Hospital and discussed the problems involved and the changes in practice that have resulted.

06/95 Regional audit group. Dr Jayson reported back from the Regional ICU Audit Group meeting on 12th Jan 1995. The acceptance of the AMICU transfer guidelines was noted. Various bids for funding are to be made to the NW Region by the audit facilitators at Stockport NHS Trust (the home of the current chairperson Dr S Remington). Nominations had been received for election of a new chairperson and a ballot is to be organised.

07/95 Regional Intensive Care Services Review. It was agreed that those seconded onto the working groups of this review should report back to AMICU with their results in order to keep everyone up to date with developments. Currently there was no information from Dr Drummond and Dr McKeown's external review.

08/95 Treasurer's report: Dr Macmillan informed the meeting that AMICU was £1400 in the black. Unfortunately, Eli-Lilly does not have a budget to continue sponsoring meetings and it was agreed to approach Abbott who had expressed an interest. Roussel are still able to continue as before in association with Abbott. It was noted that a single mailing of all members cost about £10. ? *for person*

09/95 Next meeting. The next meeting to be arranged for June 1995