
AMICU *Association of Merseyside Intensive Care Units*

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Minutes of 48th meeting of AMICU
December 5th 2003 at the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton, Wirral
(Sponsored by an educational grant from Wyeth and Aventis Pharmaceuticals)

Attendance

Consultants: Dr G Masterson, Dr D Jayson, Dr M Zuky, Dr J Watt, Dr J Dalton, Dr O Zuzan, Dr R Stevens, Dr S Nagarajah, Dr J Gannon, Dr E Shearer, Dr I Tweedie, Dr K Wilkinson, Prof R Griffiths, Dr A Selby, Dr N Scawn, Dr R Wenstone, Dr R Macmillan, Dr A Holden, Dr S Perera

Trainees: Dr A Axon, Dr T Haag, Dr P Sanjay, Dr A Garrard, Dr S Hargreaves

Others: Mr M Evans (Aventis), Mr M Lazenby (Wyeth), Ms T Odukogve, Ms K McDermott, Ms J Woods, Ms S Leyland, Ms R Wallis, Ms A Fitzgerald

Apologies: Dr F Mostafa, Dr L McCrossan, Dr J Harper, Dr G Marx, Dr C Whitehead, Dr C Littler, Dr A Kent

88/03 Introduction

Dr Ian Tweedie welcomed the audience, thanked the meeting's sponsors (Aventis & Wyeth pharmaceuticals) and introduced the day's speaker.

89//03 Dr John Watt's presentation

Dr John Watt is a consultant in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine at the Southport spinal injuries unit. He gave a very comprehensive overview of his area of expertise with a presentation entitled "the role of the anaesthetist in a spinal injuries unit". The talk lasted 80 minutes, was extremely well received and stimulated 20 minutes of questions.

90/03 Business meeting

90/03/01 ITU Service Specification

Ian reported that the Network had received replies from all participating trusts and that the areas with the lowest compliance would be the focus of the Network's bidding in the specialist commissioning process. These bids would include funding for outreach services, audit clerks and continuation of funding of the Network itself as funding is only assured until the end of 2004. Furthermore the data will be utilised to create a services standards document similar to the recent ICS publication. It is anticipated that this document will prove useful for PCTs to assess the quality of services locally.

90/03/02 Feedback from Network's Clinical Group meeting

Ian informed the audience that at least 3 critical care beds will be closed over the winter period. The 2 closed beds at Halton are awaiting a CHI review and a bed will be closed in Macclesfield for reasons

that remain unclear. In addition, Aintree are closing 1 ITU bed and 2 HDU beds over the Xmas period to permit essential ITU building maintenance.

90/03/03 ICS Press Release

Richard Griffiths the audience that Saxon Ridley has recently written a letter to ICS members stating that the anticipated crisis this winter requires prospective planning as there is still a real deficit of level 3 beds nationally. He has urged individual units to collect data on cancelled elective operations, examples of mechanical ventilation outside of the ITU, non-clinical transfers and other similar data.

90/03/04 Cheshire & Mersey Critical Care Network prospective planning for winter crisis

Our Network has requested that we inform them of how many potential beds we can open at short notice if additional funding is forthcoming. Such funding would be non-recurrent.

90/03/05 New AMICU Treasurer

Terry Hankin has decided to step down as AMICU secretary. The Chairman invites anyone interested in this post (AMICU's 3rd officer) to discuss this with himself or Gary Masterson. It is hoped to appoint a new treasurer at the next AMICU meeting (19th March 2004).

90/03/06 CEPD recognition for education visits to other units

Our regional adviser, Euan Shearer, has now had it confirmed that he can approve a scheme whereby ITU consultants can achieve CEPD recognition for visiting other ITUs in the Network. The scheme considers it reasonable for any ITU consultant to visit any unit, 3 points will be awarded for a half day and 5 for a full day, a maximum of 10 points can be awarded for this activity each year, the receiving unit is to keep a register of all visitors and the CEPD points are to be external points. Further details will be e-mailed out to AMICU's membership in the near future.

90/03/07 Regional Adviser's update

Euan Shearer informed the audience that the region has been successful in being awarded 3 NTN in critical care. He then detailed how the NTN rotations are to be divided between the Royal, Aintree and Whiston. The rotations have been approved by David Graham and it is hoped to start appointing in the near future. He also mentioned that he had received a letter from the Lead Dean about increasing SHO numbers in ITU (and anaesthesia) to achieve a ratio of 1.25:1 for SHOs:SpRs. Hopefully this will allow us to increase SHO numbers throughout the Network. Finally, Euan discussed the proposal from STEC that the RA (and/or his deputy) should visit all ITUs in the region to assess academic/educational potential.

91/03 Any other business

91/03/01 New consultant contract

Richard Wenstone suggested that AMICU would be useful tool to develop a Network-wide approach to discussions about implementing the new consultant contract for intensivists. It was generally felt that uniformity of approach would strengthen each ITU's case for implementing the contract. It was agreed that it would be valuable for Clinical Directors to share provisional job plans with colleagues from other trusts.

91/03/02 Potassium related death

Robin Macmillan initiated a discussion about the different practices for potassium administration throughout the different trusts in the Network. It was generally agreed that this would be an important area for the Network's clinical effectiveness group to address.

92/03 Date of next meeting

The 49^h AMICU meeting will be the Spring meeting on Friday 19th March at our usual venue, the Quality Hotel, Little Sutton, Wirral. Professor Nancy Rothwell from the University of Manchester will speak about brain injury. Professor Rothwell is a world class speaker and her presentation will be of interest to surgical, medical, nursing and AHP colleagues as well as intensivists.