# Administration of Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 85th meeting, held on 30 November 2023 at the Wesley Hotel and Conference Centre, London

## Present:

Chairman: Professor K Bradley

#### Members:

Ms K Adamson

Ms S Aldridge

Dr C Beadsmoore

Dr M Cooper

Dr A Craig

Prof J Dickson

Dr K Dixon

Dr N Hujairi

Dr P Julyan

Prof I Lyburn

Mrs C Moody

Dr S Rasul

Dr N Singh

Prof S Vinjamuri

Dr S Wan

Dr T Westwood

# Secretariat:

Mrs L Fraser (UKHSA)

Ms N Parkar (UKHSA)

Mr M Richardson (UKHSA)

Miss K Stonell (UKHSA)

#### **Observers:**

P lype (DHSC)

E Weetch (DHSC)

# Item 1 Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 <u>The Chairman</u> welcomed members to the 85<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies have been received from Dr Mark Gaze, Mr David Graham, Dr Neil Hartman, Dr George Petrides, Dr Teresa Szyszko, Prof Jon Wadsley, Dr Amina Powell, Rob Orford (Welsh Govt), Leon Wong (Welsh Govt), John Capiron (Scottish Govt) and Anncris Roberts (Scottish Govt).
- 1.3 <u>The Chairman</u> advised members that this would be Professor Lyburn's last meeting and thanked him for his work on the committee.
- 1.4 <u>The Chairman</u> advised members that adverts for the two vacancies have closed and DHSC will be holding interviews in January 2024.
- 1.5 <u>The Chairman</u> also advised members that Mrs Clare Moody will be re-appointed for a third term in April 2024. An update on the re-appointment of other members who come to the end of their terms in July, August or September 2024 will be provided at the next committee meeting.

[Action: Secretariat]

#### Item 2 Declarations of members interests

- 2.1 <u>The Chairman</u> advised that members interests are published on the members page of the ARSAC website.
- 2.2 Members were asked to declare any changes to their interests since the last meeting. A declaration may be made now or at the start of any relevant item. Members should inform the ARSAC secretariat of any changes between meetings.

#### Item 3 Minutes and notes of previous meeting

- 3.1 <u>The Chairman</u> asked members for corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 3.2 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments, and will be published on the ARSAC website:
  - Paragraph 12.9: clarify that the syllabus is for medical physics experts.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 4 Matters arising

# a) Feedback from SAUE incident

- 4.1 <u>Mrs Fraser</u> reminded members that the service which had their employer licence revoked remains suspended and the incident is still being investigated.
- b) Review of the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017

- 4.2 Priya lype provided an update on behalf of DHSC. DHSC advised members that the post implementation review of IR(M)ER 2017 was published on <a href="legislation.gov">legislation.gov</a> recently. IR(ME)R 2017 is being amended in light of the recommendations.
- 4.3 The DHSC legal team are drafting the Statutory Instrument (SI) which will have to be laid in the House of Commons as per parliamentary procedures.
- 4.4 The regulations will also include an update to the licence fees. Mrs Fraser advised members that, following discussions at the last meeting, UKHSA is still investigating alternative payment methods for Employer licences.

[Action: Secretariat]

# c) ARSAC members guide for assessing applications

- 4.5 <u>The Chairman</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 11-23 and reminded members that this is an internal document to support the consistent review of applications.
- 4.6 Members noted the inconsistencies in the allocation of procedure codes, some are very generic and others are very specific. Miss Parkar reminded members that a review of all procedure codes took place when IR(ME)R 2017 was implemented, and members agreed that it was appropriate that there were inconsistencies. However, if there is a code that is either too specific or not specific enough, this can be reviewed.
- 4.7 <u>Miss Parkar</u> clarified the process aspects of the guide for assessing applications when members provide responses. Members suggested that the application category responses in the guide are updated to match JIRA and include a further description of the process.

[Action: Secretariat]

#### d) Practitioner Amendment/Renewal form

4.8 The Chairman drew members' attention to ARSAC 12-23. Questions 13 and 14 have been amended to be more specific about the different information required for renewal and amendment applications. Members agreed the draft changes. The new forms will be updated on the ARSAC website.

[Action: Secretariat]

#### Item 5 ARSAC Terms of Reference

- 5.1 <u>The Chairman</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 13-23 which have been updated to reflect the change in administrative support from 'Public Health England' to 'UK Health Security Agency'.
- Members requested that the membership reference to 'Physicists' is changed to 'Medical Physicists' and agreed the Terms of Reference.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 6 ARSAC Diagnostic Reference Levels (DRLs) for 18F-FDG for whole body tumour imaging and infection/inflammation imaging

- 6.1 <u>The Chairman</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 14-23. Following discussions at the previous meeting, the Secretariat conducted a survey on the administered activities and protocols used for 18F-FDG for whole body tumour imaging and infection/inflammation imaging.
- Miss Parkar reflected on the current guidance in the ARSAC Notes for Guidance (NfG) and took members through the survey responses. In summary, the majority of sites are using much lower activity than the guidance in the NfG. Members were asked to consider whether any further changes need to be made to the NfG on DRLs or weight based activity scaling, or the wider guidance on using DRLs to set local programmes etc.
- 6.3 Members offered comments on the proposals.
- 6.4 Mrs Fraser advised members that the Secretariat plan to publish an article on this topic in Nuclear Medicine Communications (NMC).
- 6.5 <u>Dr Vinjamuri</u> advised members to consider the level of engagement with the community but suggested the article could be published as an invited commentary. <u>The Chairman</u> agreed that the more expert opinion and contribution, the better.
- The Secretariat will draft the commentary for NMC with support from members. An update to the NfG can be made after publication. Mrs Fraser added that this will not be included in the next update to the NfG in January, but a further update can be made mid-year if required.

[Action: Secretariat]

#### Item 7 ARSAC guidance on thyroid blocking for 123-I ioflupane

- 7.1 Mr Richardson drew members' attention to ARSAC 15-23 which summarises the current ARSAC guidance on thyroid blocking and the requirements of IR(ME)R to ensure that doses are as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). Mr Richardson also summarised the study by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Trust.
- 7.2 Members are asked to consider whether any update is required to the ARSAC NfG in light of this study. <u>Mrs Fraser</u> reminded members that this was last reviewed comprehensively in 2017.
- 7.3 Members briefly discussed the study by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Trust. Members also discussed the summary of product pharacteristics (SmPC) recommendation to always block the thyroid and the requirement for appropriate permissions where there is deviation from the SmPC.

7.4 Members agreed that ARSAC continues to recommend thyroid blocking but references to the threshold of activity at which blocking is advised is removed. This will be included in the update to the NfG.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 8 ARSAC Notes for Guidance

- 8.1 <u>The Chairman</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 16-23 and Annex A. <u>Miss Parkar</u> reminded members that the NfG are updated annually. The proposed changes are based on common queries received by the ARSAC Support Unit, as well as suggestions from members.
- 8.2 Members offered comments, agreed the changes and made further suggestions.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 9 Trends and issues on applications

- a) IR(ME)R employer's procedures requirement that individuals must have a practitioner licence to report
- 9.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to ARSAC 17-23. A recent practitioner licence renewal application had been submitted to enable the applicant to continue to report PET-CT scans through a teleradiology company. This was a requirement of the IR(ME)R employer's procedure but is not required by law. Members agreed that the application response was appropriate.
- 9.2 Members discussed the practice of providing remote practitioner support to a service. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded members that applications to provide remote support will continue to be considered on a case by case basis.
- b) Dosimetry and dose verification scanning in therapy research trials
- 9.3 <u>The Chairman</u> reflected on agenda item 8 and the update to the NfG to reflect the requirements for treatment verification and dosimetry.
- 9.4 Members offered comments. Mrs Fraser and Miss Parkar are attending the SimpleRad meeting at the beginning December will feedback to committee.

[Action: Secretariat]

9.5 The Secretariat will review the information on this topic in the members guide for assessing applications.

[Action: Secretariat]

# c) Chyle leak detection – procedure code

9.6 The Chairman advised members that since 2018, 18 Particular Patient Licence (PPL) applications have been received for lymphoscintigraphy for

chylothorax/investigation of site of thoracic chyle leakage. Members are asked to consider whether the advice being given by the Secretariat to submit PPL applications for this indication is still appropriate.

- 9.7 Members discussed the most appropriate indication for this investigation and whether it was an extension of an existing procedure code. Members agreed to change the indication of the procedure code Tc-99m colloid for lymph node (lymphoedema) imaging to a broader indication such as lymphoscintigraphy.
- 9.8 The DRLs will be maintained but the Secretariat will review and update the indication for the procedure code.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 10 UKHSA update

10.1 <u>Miss Parkar</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 18-23.

# a) Update on JIRA

10.2 UKHSA is in the process upgrading the JIRA platform, however, this is currently paused. The Secretariat will therefore proceed with a training session for users on the current system. Once the change has been implemented a further training course, supplemented with documentation will be arranged.

[Action: Secretariat]

10.3 Members asked whether the auto reminders for outstanding applications can be included in one email, with a weekly summary that takes you directly to the dashboard. The Secretariat will discuss this with the JIRA team.

[Action: Secretariat]

# b) Timescales for Processing

10.4 The output from JIRA includes number of applications, processing times and average resolution time.

#### Item 11 Nuclear medicine items from other committees/meetings

- a) RCR
- 11.1 No one present to report.
- i. Clinical Oncology
- 11.2 No one present to report.
- b) RCP
- i. RCP MRT credential form

11.3 <u>Professor Vinjamuri</u> drew members' attention to ARSAC 19-23 setting out a proposal for the development of a new credential to enable the recognition of a Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT) Specialist by the GMC. The Secretariat will be involved in the next steps with stakeholder groups.

#### c) ICSCNM

11.4 There have been no meetings since May 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2024.

#### d) UKRG

11.5 <u>Dr Cooper</u> advised members that the thyroid blocking paper was discussed at the last meeting. Members comments today will be fed back to the group. The group also discussed safe drawing up guidelines and the process for cleaning of and transferring items from the laminar flow cabinet. It is unclear whether the UKRG guidelines are going to be updated.

# e) BNMS

11.6 No one present to report. <u>The Chairman</u> noted that the Autumn meeting was well attended.

# i. BNMS MRT group

11.7 The UK MRT Consortium has merged with the BNMS MRT Group recently, to form the BNMS UK MRT Consortium. The group is currently meeting every 2 months, with a wider meeting twice a year with other stakeholders, such as Operational Delivery Network leads and the ARSAC Secretariat.

# f) SCoR

11.8 Mrs Moody will report back to the SCoR regarding the update to the NfG.

# g) EANM physics committee

11.9 <u>Dr Dickson</u> is attending the SimpleRad meeting in Brussels in December and will provide feedback at the next meeting.

[Action: Dr Dickson]

#### Item 12 Date of next meeting

12.1 The next meeting will take place in May 2024. The Secretariat will issue a Doodle poll to determine availability.

[Action: Secretariat]

# Item 13 Any other business

13.1 No items were raised.