

Wales Patient Access Schemes

Tips for making your submission

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Background

AWMSG has accepted Wales Patient Access Schemes (WPAS) as part of its HTA process since 2010

The process for considering WPAS is based upon that of PASLU and 2014 PPRS

Schemes may be simple or complex, and can include primary care dispensing of the medicine

A total of 56 schemes have been submitted, 49 of which have been approved



The submission process

Schemes are submitted to AWTTC via our email: AWTTC@wales.nhs.uk

AWTTC performs an initial review, and may request clarification of certain points

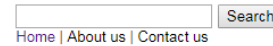
Once a response to clarification has been received, the submission is considered by the Patient Access Scheme Wales Group (PASWG)

The opinion of PASWG is passed to Welsh Government for final approval



Where do I get the submission form?

Submission forms can be downloaded from the AWMSG website
(www.awmsg.org)



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All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

Grŵp Strategaeth Meddyginiaethau Cymru Gyfan



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The Welsh Government wants to ensure that Welsh patients have equitable and quick access to new medicines. It also has a duty to manage that access within a rational use of resources.

Medicines are funded by NHS Wales following guidance from two sources, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

If a medicine is supported by AWMSG (i.e. recommended for use, or recommended as an option for use) and is ratified by Welsh Government, there is a requirement, as with NICE guidance, to provide funding to enable implementation within two months of the recommendation in line with [Welsh Government directions](#).

The whole AWMSG process takes around six months and can be timed so that the medicine can be endorsed for NHS Wales as soon as possible after the product is licensed within the UK. This results in their use and funding ahead of NICE guidance or in its absence.

AWMSG brings together NHS clinicians, pharmacists, healthcare professionals, health economists, industry representatives and patient advocates when considering new medicines. Welsh Government officials consider the AWMSG recommendation and advise whether funding should be made available for the use of this medicine within NHS Wales.

Funding within NHS Wales for use of a medicine that falls within the AWMSG appraisal criteria is very unlikely prior to an AWMSG appraisal. Where a medicine is not endorsed for use in NHS Wales (because appraisal by AWMSG or NICE has not progressed), Statements of Advice are issued.

For further information on the appraisal process and to obtain the relevant documentation please refer to the appraisal [process section](#) or for the latest recommendations view [AWMSG reports](#).





Pharmaceutical industry

Wales Patient Access Scheme

Appraisal information

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Patient Access Schemes (PAS) are arrangements which may be used on an exceptional basis for the acquisition of medicines for the NHS in Wales and England. PAS propose a discount, rebate or other variation from the list price of a medicine that may be linked to the number, type or response of patients, and/or the collection of new evidence (outcomes). These schemes should aim to improve the cost effectiveness of a medicine and therefore allow the All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AWMSG) to recommend treatments which it might otherwise have found not to be cost effective. Wales Patient Access Schemes (WPAS) are proposed by a pharmaceutical company and agreed with the Welsh Government, with input from the Patient Access Schemes Wales Group (PASWG) within the AWMSG Health Technology Appraisal (HTA) process.

The following WPAS documents are available:

[Patient Access Scheme Wales Group - Members](#)
[Wales Patient Access Scheme - Process Guidance](#)
[Wales Patient Access Scheme - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Complex WPAS Submission Deadlines](#)

[Submission Form for a Simple Wales Patient Access Scheme - Alternative link to document](#)
[Submission Form for a Complex Wales Patient Access Scheme - Alternative link to document](#)

A list of technologies with an approved WPAS or PAS recommended by AWMSG for use in NHS Wales is available in the [AWMSG report](#) section.

A list of technologies with an approved PAS recommended by NICE for use in the NHS in England and Wales is available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/paslu/ListOfPatientAccessSchemesApprovedAsPartOfANICEAppraisal.jsp>

Department of Health Patient Access Scheme Notification within NHS Wales



http://www.awmsg.org/industry_wpas.html



What type of scheme is preferred?

Simple schemes are preferred as they impose minimal burden for the NHS

However, schemes incorporating primary care dispensing of the medicine are also encouraged, as patients can access their medicines closer to home (from a community pharmacy)

Currently schemes incorporating primary care dispensing are considered complex. However, we try to streamline the review process for these submissions



Completing the form - general

Prior to completing the form, discuss your submission with AWTTTC

Please try to answer every question (avoid using N/A)

Please read the questions carefully. If it unclear what is required contact AWTTTC to discuss

If we request clarification, please don't respond by repeating the information that was in the original submission form



Questions to look out for

3.7 Will the technology be available through homecare arrangements? If yes, will the technology be available through homecare only? Will the health board or trust be able to select the homecare provider or will this be specified by the company?

A Homecare arrangement will help to improve patient access, so is encouraged where practical

Health boards should ideally be able to select their own provider



Questions to look out for

4.1 Please describe the type of scheme and how it will operate. State the proposed WPAS price or proposed discount. State whether the discount will be variable to maintain a constant purchase price over time (if the list price fluctuates), or whether the discount will be fixed, and the WPAS price will fluctuate with variations in the list price.

Please include the level of discount or the fixed purchase price



Questions to look out for

4.2 Patients from certain areas of Wales may receive treatment from hospitals in England. Please explain how the scheme will operate in this circumstance.

May be particularly relevant for patients in Betsi Cadwaladr and Powys health boards

Consultation with pharmacy teams in these areas would be advisable prior to submission



Questions to look out for

5.2 Are other schemes currently available for patients with the disease for which this scheme applies? If so, please provide details.

Check the PASLU and AWMSG websites:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/patient-access-schemes-liaison-unit/list-of-technologies-with-approved-patient-access-schemes>

<http://www.awmsg.org/awmsgonline/app/reportpas?execution=e2s1>



Questions to look out for

NHS financial flows: schemes should be consistent with existing financial flows in NHS Wales.

7.1 Please provide a flow diagram that clearly shows how the scheme will operate. All planned flows of funds must be clearly demonstrated.

Please include a diagram!

Usually straightforward for a simple scheme, but confirm the invoice is raised by and paid to the same organisation

For homecare, to which invoice is the discount applied?



Questions to look out for

7.4 Has any consultation with NHS Wales already been undertaken for the proposed scheme? (The NHS in Wales must be consulted on WPAS.) If so, what was the response and was the scheme amended to reflect the response?

Please contact AWTTC if you need advice on your submission, especially if you haven't completed the process before

Consultation with health boards and other stakeholders may also be beneficial

