

Enclosure no. :	1/AWMSG/1202
Agenda item no. :	3 – Minutes of Meeting

ALL WALES MEDICINES STRATEGY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON

9TH OCTOBER 2002 COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM

IN THE CRISPIN LANE LIBRARY OF THE

NORTH EAST WALES INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, WREXHAM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1.	Ms Kathryn Bourne	Nurse prescriber representative Community Learning Disabilities Team, Newport
2.	Dr Paul Buss	NHS Consultant representative Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport
3.	Mr Jeffrey Evans	Representing other healthcare professionals eligible to prescribe Wales Centre for Podiatric Studies, UWIC, Cardiff
4.	Ms Sian Evans	Local Health Group pharmacist representative Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Group
5.	Mr Peter Harsant	Industry representative, Norgine Limited, Uxbridge, Middlesex
6.	Ms Susan Hobbs	NHS Trust Nurse Director representative University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
7.	Councillor Meurig Hughes	Lay member representative, Llangefni, Ynys Mon
8.	Dr Thomas Lau	LHG prescribing lead representative, Liswery Medical Centre, Newport
9.	Mr David Morgan	Director of Pharmaceutical Public Health representative, North Wales Health Authority, Mold
11.	Dr Ceri Phillips	Health Economist School of Health Science, Swansea
12.	Mr Michael Pollard	Chief Pharmacist representative Wrexham Maelor Hospital
14.	Dr Quentin Sandifer	Director of Public Health representative Morgannwg Health Authority, Swansea
15.	Professor Roger Walker	Chairman AWMSG Director of Pharmaceutical Public Health Gwent Health Authority, Pontypool

IN ATTENDANCE:

1.	Mr Robin Burfield	Health Solutions Wales
2.	Mr Hugh Morgan	Health Solutions Wales
3.	Ms Susan Baboolal	Welsh Medicines Partnership
4.	Professor Philip Routledge	Welsh Medicines Partnership
5.	Ms Fiona Woods	Welsh Medicines Partnership
6.	Ms Ruth Lang	Minutes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
7.	Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells	Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff
8.	Mrs Carolyn Poulter	Head of Pharmaceutical Services Branch National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff
9.	Mr Gavin Parry	Senior Executive Officer National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

List of Abbreviations:**AWMSG – All Wales Medicines Strategy Group****WMP – Welsh Medicines Partnership****NICE – National Institute for Clinical Excellence**

Councillor Meurig Hughes announced the meeting of the AWMSG and welcomed members of the Group and members of the public to Wrexham.

1. Chairman's introduction

The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the AWMSG and invited those around the table to introduce themselves. Professor Walker declared that meetings will be held at three venues Wrexham, Swansea and Cardiff on a rotating basis and it is the intention to hold four meetings per year. All meetings will start at 1.00 pm, finish by 6.00 pm and all proceedings will be audio-taped. Papers will be available at least ten days prior to the meeting and apologised that this had not been the case for this meeting. The Chairman confirmed that all documentation will in future be available on the website which will be set up in time for the December meeting. The Chairman informed the Committee that an election for Vice-Chairman would take place at the end of the meeting and that declarations of interest would be a standing item on future agenda.

2. Apologies

Dr Emma Lam, Welsh Medicines Partnership.

3. Recognition of the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group

The Chairman declared that the Welsh Assembly Government had established the AWMSG as a statutory advisory Assembly Sponsored Public Body under the National Health Act 1977. The remit of the group is to advise the Minister for Health and Social Services on strategic developments in prescribing as laid down in the Constitution. All members had been appointed by the Minister for Health and Social Services and all appointments are for a three year duration in the first instance. Details of forthcoming meetings will be published in the national press and on the website and all meetings will be conducted in public. As a group the AWMSG will seek to make recommendations to the Minister on the basis of consensus that will reflect the range of views of the Group. The agenda for future meetings would be determined by a work programme agreed by the Group and the Welsh Medicines Partnership. ***It was agreed*** with representatives of Welsh Assembly Government that an official public announcement of the members of the AWMSG would be made.

4. Code of practice for members of the All-Wales Medicines Strategy Group / Declaration of Interest form

Ms Poulter presented Enclosure No. **1/AWMSG/1002** to the Group. The paper was accepted as the code of practice for the Group. All members were asked to complete their declarations of interest (Enclosure No. **2/AWMSG/1002**) and forward this information to Ms Woods of the Welsh Medicines Partnership.

5. Use of the Welsh language in meetings

The Chairman informed the Group that it had been agreed at the induction meeting that, in general, the main body of discussion would be in English. The agenda would be published in Welsh and English. Simultaneous translation from Welsh to English would be available at each meeting.

6. Roles and structures of prescribing committees in Wales

Professor Routledge presented Enclosure No. **3/AWMSG/1002**. The Group discussed the future format, structures and roles of prescribing committees required to underpin the work of the AWMSG. The Chairman invited Professor Routledge to prepare a paper that could be distributed to the service for consultation. The paper needed to focus on whether prescribing committees were required at locality, trust, and regional level, the roles and responsibilities of the various committees and whether membership should be drawn from primary, secondary care or both. Some thought was also required as to the names of the committee(s) ie drugs and therapeutic committee, prescribing committee or medicines management committee. ***It was agreed*** this consultation should be completed in time for the item to be considered again at the December meeting. Discussion moved to the managed introduction of new drugs before NICE guidance was available. This was seen as one of the key roles of the Group. The Group needed to provide clear guidance to prescribing committees, prevent unnecessary duplication of effort by these committees and minimise variation in prescribing by postcode. Welsh Assembly Government were willing to consider advice from the Group

on whether such guidance should be accompanied by a Direction to the NHS, on the lines of the Directions issued in respect of NICE technical appraisals, making their implementation mandatory rather than advisory.

7. Report on Prescribing in Wales (Paper A)

The Chairman stated that this is to be a standing item agenda where there will be a presentation of current issues, and invited Professor Routledge to address the Group. The Report on Prescribing in Wales (No.4/AWMSG/1002) included comparisons in primary care at Health Authority and Local Health Group level, and Wales versus the rest of the UK, and Wales versus England. The Group discussed a number of issues including the use of prescribing indicators. Whilst there were reservations about the current emphasis of indicators on cost and not quality, overall it was recognised that indicators were useful. ***It was agreed*** that a review of indicators is required and the prescribing advisers forum be invited to undertake this work. The Chairman informed the meeting that both he and Professor Routledge would be attending the annual meeting of Prescribing Advisers on 18th October 2002. The Chairman will ask them to formally take this task on board and invite them to become a sub-committee of the AWMSG. The Chairman also asked WMP to explore the issue of benchmarking prescribing in Wales with that of the North East of England and present a paper on this at a subsequent meeting.

Prescribing Services Unit (PSU) (Paper B)

Mr Hugh Morgan presented a report of the Prescribing Services Unit (Enclosure No. 5/AWMSG/1002), a unit of Health Solutions Wales, which processes all prescriptions dispensed in Wales. The imminent introduction of a Windows based platform was seen as a significant development to facilitate the analysis of primary care prescribing data. The Chairman stated the provision of timely, prescribing information is critical to the work of the AWMSG and was reassured that no further delays were anticipated.

8. AWMSG role in monitoring the use of specialist and high cost drugs (Paper A) / An introduction to the Medusa Project (Paper B)

The Chairman invited Ms Poulter to address the Group and outline the issues raised in Enclosure No. 6/AWMSG/1002). Collection of prescribing data from primary care was routine but obtaining secondary care data was problematic. Monitoring the implementation of NICE was the responsibility of other bodies but the AWMSG would need to be aware of prescribing patterns across Wales of drugs implicated in such guidance. At this point in time purchase and supply data could be accessed and provided by Health Solutions Wales, but this needed to be assimilated manually and was not available for every Trust in Wales. Ms Poulter went on to invite Mr Burfield to bring the Group up to date with the Medusa project, a means of collecting purchasing and supply data from Trusts.

Mr Burfield explained that the Medusa project contained three elements:

- (i) to implement a drug coding system for Wales
- (ii) to collate secondary care information from the system

- (iii) to provide the tools so that users can have access to that data

Mr Burfield informed the Group that phase one is nearing completion and will report shortly. The feasibility of extending the work will then have to be reviewed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burfield and reiterated the importance of monitoring medicine use in secondary care. The Chairman asked Mr Burfield to report back to the Group when the review document is available.

9. Disease modifying therapies for multiple sclerosis: risk sharing scheme

Mr Parry presented Enclosure No. **8/AWMSG/1002** to the Group for information. Mr Parry confirmed the Implementation Group would need to meet again prior to Christmas. The Chairman confirmed the paper highlights the general financial pressures associated with implementing guidance involving high cost drugs and called for greater clarity and transparency of drug budgets and spending by all parties. The Chairman also stated the paper raises concerns from the patient's perspective regarding access to treatment. ***It was agreed*** information on the number of patients receiving treatment should be presented at the next meeting.

10. WHC(2002)71 – Medication Supply to Hospital Patients

The Chairman invited Ms Poulter to present Enclosure No **9/AWMSG/1002** which provided background information on the evidence to support the guidance of Welsh Health Circular (2002)71. Ms Poulter asked the Group to note the documentation and take the message back to their organisation that implementation should be progressed.

11. Horizon scanning

The Chairman invited Ms Woods to present Enclosure No. **10/AWMSG/1002** and asked the Group to comment. The Group discussed difficulties in obtaining and presenting full information in this area. Following discussion, the Group was encouraged that some of the problems may be overcome by closer liaison with the pharmaceutical industry. The Chairman recognized commercial confidence had to be respected but identified that the industry were now aware of dates for future meetings of the Group. If any company had products nearing launch and wanted them assessed by the AWMSG they should inform the Group at least 6 months before the meeting at which they wanted them to be assessed. ***It was agreed*** the Chairman would have further discussions with the Scottish Medicine Consortium regarding the required template for submission of data by the industry. ***It was also agreed*** that Mr Peter Harsant and Dr Ceri Phillips would meet with WMP to discuss criteria for selecting drugs for assessment. WMP will report back to the Group.

12. AWMSG future work programme

Professor Routledge presented Enclosure No. **11/AWMSG/1002**. This paper attempted to bring together the major recommendations of the Task and Finish Group for Prescribing. ***It was agreed*** that prioritisation of the

recommendations was important and should be undertaken by WMP in collaboration with the Chairman. The Group proposed suggestions on how the prioritisation process could be performed.

13. Pharmacy strategy – for information

The consultation document Remedies for Success – A Strategy for Pharmacy in Wales was provided to members of the Group for information.

14. Date of next meetings

The Chairman thanked members of the AWMSG for their participation, and Mr Hugh Morgan and Mr Robin Burfield for attending the meeting. The Chairman went on to thank members of the public for their support and invited feedback.

The next meeting of the AWMSG will be on 5th December at 1.00 pm in Swansea.