

Enclosure no. :	1/AWMSG/0603
Agenda item no. :	3 – Minutes of previous meeting

ALL WALES MEDICINES STRATEGY GROUP

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
4th MARCH 2003 COMMENCING 1.00 PM AT
THE ALL NATIONS CENTRE, SACHVILLE AVENUE, HEATH
CARDIFF, CF14 3NY**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1.	Mrs Kathryn Bourne	Nurse Prescribing Community Learning Disabilities Team, Newport, Gwent
2.	Mr Jeffrey Evans	Representing other healthcare professionals eligible to prescribe, Wales Centre for Podiatric Studies, UWIC, Cardiff
3.	Miss Sian Evans	Local Health Group pharmacist representative, Merthyr Tydfil Local Health Group
4.	Dr David Gozzard	Medical Director & Consultant Haematologist, Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust
5.	Mr Peter Harsant	Industry representative, Norgine Limited, Uxbridge, Middlesex
6.	Councillor Meurig Hughes	Lay member representative, Llangefni, Ynys Mon
7.	Dr Thomas Lau	LHG prescribing lead representative, Lliswery Medical Centre, Newport
8.	Mr David Morgan	Director of Pharmaceutical Public Health representative, North Wales Health Authority, Mold
9.	Dr Ceri Phillips	Health Economist School of Health Science, Swansea
10.	Dr Quentin Sandifer	Director of Public Health representative, Morgannwg Health Authority, Swansea
11.	Professor Roger Walker	Chairman AWMSG Director of Pharmaceutical Public Health Gwent Health Authority, Pontypool

IN ATTENDANCE:

12.	Mrs Susan Baboolal	Welsh Medicines Partnership
13.	Mrs Ruth Lang	Minutes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
14.	Mr Gavin Parry	Senior Executive Officer National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff
15.	Mrs Carolyn Poulter	Head of Pharmaceutical Services Branch National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff
16.	Professor Philip Routledge	Welsh Medicines Partnership
17.	Mrs Karen Samuels	Welsh Medicines Partnership
18.	Mrs Fiona Woods	Welsh Medicines Partnership
19.	Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells	Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

INVITED TO ADDRESS THE MEETING:

19.	Dr Charles Brigden	Clinical Research Physician, Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd
20.	Mr Christopher Chinn	Health Outcomes Manager, Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd
21.	Dr George Findlay	Consultant in Intensive Care, UHW
22.	Dr Tom Lawson	Consultant Rheumatologist, Princess of Wales Hospital
23.	Mr Mike Mitchell	Welsh Assembly Government
24.	Mr Mike Pontin	Welsh Assembly Government

List of Abbreviations:

AWMSG – All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
WMP – Welsh Medicines Partnership
WAG – Welsh Assembly Government
NICE – National Institute for Clinical Excellence
HCW – Health Commission Wales
SHSCW – Specialist Health Service Commission Wales

3/1. Welcome and Introduction Mr Jeffrey Evans welcomed members and visitors to the third meeting of AWMSG. Following the introduction of each member, the Chairman welcomed Dr David Gozzard and Mrs Karen Samuels to their first meeting and declared that the role of the Committee is as set out in the constitution, proceedings are recorded and the minutes will be available on the AWMSG website.	Action
3/2. Apologies Mrs Susan Hobbs, NHS Trust Nurse Director representative University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. Mr Mike Pollard, Chief Pharmacist representative, Wrexham Maelor Hospital.	
3/3. Minutes of Meeting It was noted that Dr Gozzard had taken up his position as a member of the AWMSG, but that one membership remains vacant. The Vice Chairman raised the point that Mr Parry had agreed to issue a letter to the service clarifying incentive schemes by April 2003. The minutes were then accepted as a correct record of the meeting.	
3/4. Matters Arising 4.1 (2/4.) Karen Samuels had been appointed as Principal Information Pharmacist to WMP. 4.2 (2/14) The Minister had agreed that Councillor Meurig Hughes, the lay member, should become a voting member of AWMSG. 4.3 Generic Prescribing: A meeting had taken place between WMP members, Professor Routledge and Miss Sian Evans. Professor Routledge reported that WMP was in consultation with the Northern and Yorkshire Regional Drug &	

<p>Therapeutics Centre to identify differences in generic prescribing in the two areas. The outcome of the consultation and any updates would be reported back to the Group in due course. The Chairman informed the Group that generic dispensing and generic prescribing rates are now available and this information will be put onto the website in the near future.</p>	WMP/SE
<p>4.4 Update on MS Risk Sharing Scheme: A progress meeting on the implementation of this scheme had been held during January 2003. Mr Parry confirmed the scheme has been written into the Service and Financial Framework of WAG. A letter of clarification regarding the SAFF has been issued.</p>	GP
<p>4.5 Update on NHS-Industry Forum: Mrs Poulter confirmed that a letter of invitation for nominations had been issued, a SIFT panel had met and appointments had been made, although one consultant position remains vacant. An induction meeting will be held during May. When the date for this meeting has been finalised WAG will write to successful candidates. Thereafter, the names of members will be put on the AWMSG website.</p>	CP
<p>4.6 Update on Prescribing Advisory Group: Mrs Poulter informed the meeting that the Minister had agreed the changes to the constitution recommended by AWMSG at the last meeting. The letter of invitation for nominations had been withheld until LHB appointments are finalized.</p>	CP
<p>3/5. Declarations of Interests</p> <p>The AWMSG document on Declaration of Interests had been modified in the light of recent amendments made to the source document produced by NICE. A copy of the AWMSG document will be displayed on the website.</p>	WMP
<p>3/6. Therapeutic Development Assessment - Activated Protein C</p> <p>Professor Philip Routledge and Mrs Karen Samuels left the room.</p> <p>Dr Findlay declared that Eli Lilly & Co. had funded his attendance at two educational meetings.</p> <p>An appraisal had been prepared by WMP and an economic assessment undertaken by Dr Phillips. This information, together with the data submitted by Eli Lilly & Co Ltd had been posted on the website on 21st February 2003. Dr George Findlay, Consultant in Intensive Care, University Hospital of Wales and Chairman of the Welsh Intensive Care Society, was also in attendance to provide a clinical perspective.</p> <p>Dr Charles Brigden, Clinical Research Physician, and Mr Christopher Chinn, Health Outcomes Manager, both Eli Lilly & Co Ltd, answered questions raised.</p> <p>Several reservations were noted including the limited number of patients who had been exposed to the drug to date, sub-group analysis and translation of results from PROWESS into practice.</p> <p>On conclusion of the presentations the Chairman stated that AWMSG advice would be passed to the Minister for implementation on an all-Wales basis. It was also pointed out that should NICE consider the drug in the future AWMSG guidance would be considered interim.</p>	

<p>The Chairman outlined the three options</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve 2. Approve with restrictions 3. Not to approve <p>It was agreed that the following recommendation be made for drotrecogin alfa (activated).</p> <p>Approved for treatment within NHS Wales with restrictions</p> <p>It was noted the cost of this advice, when implemented in full, would be in the order of £2.5 million.</p> <p>Restrictions identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion and exclusion criteria to be as set out in the PROWESS study. • The Welsh Intensive Care Society to agree standards and audit criteria with WMP/AWMSG • Ability of units to meet the standards set out in the audit and contribute the necessary data sets • Audit outcomes to be presented to AWMSG in 12 months time. <p>It was also agreed that following Ministerial consultation, the decision will be conveyed to Health Commission Wales.</p>	
<p>3/7. Update on Role & Structure of Prescribing Committees</p> <p>On behalf of WMP, Professor Philip Routledge gave an overview of the responses received to the consultation document on the Role and Structure of Prescribing Committees in Wales.</p> <p>It was noted that Celtic Dimensions are an independent apolitical, asectorial consultancy specialising in health care issues and an apology for misrepresenting them in a summary of the comments circulated prior to the meeting was conveyed to them.</p> <p>AWMSG was asked to consider whether or not it was appropriate to issue examples of proposed constitution and remit. After discussion it was agreed that an exemplar would be helpful for new organizations and WMP would be tasked to produce and disseminate this information to Medicines and Therapeutic Committees throughout Wales as widely and promptly as possible.</p>	WMP
<p>3/8. Leflunomide Toxicity</p> <p>Dr Lawson declared that he had accepted travel expenses from industry to attend UK consensus meetings on leflunomide.</p> <p>Mrs Fiona Woods, on behalf of WMP, outlined the paper prepared by herself and Dr Emma Lam. The AWMSG were asked to assess the safety profile of leflunomide and consider whether or not it was appropriate for prescribing as part of a shared care arrangement. Current guidance in Wales indicates it should only be prescribed in secondary care.</p> <p>Dr Tom Lawson, Consultant Rheumatologist, gave a clinical perspective on the use of leflunomide in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and shared his views on prescribing as part of a shared care arrangement. The importance of consistency of</p>	

<p>advice across Wales was noted and clinical governance issues highlighted.</p> <p>The Group had been asked to consider whether leflunomide could be prescribed in primary care as part of a shared care arrangement, or whether it should be restricted to specialists in secondary care. The Chairman stated that any guidance issued by AWMSG with regard to shared care prescribing would be for local implementation as appropriate.</p> <p><i>It was agreed</i> that leflunomide should not be restricted to prescribing within secondary care but could be prescribed in primary care if a shared care protocol is in place. Any shared care arrangements must ensure the patient is aware of toxicity and teratogenicity before treatment is commenced, the dose regimen is stabilised before transferring to shared care management and results of blood tests are communicated to both the GP and hospital consultant.</p> <p>Examples of shared-care protocols will be displayed on the AWMSG website for adoption locally, as appropriate.</p>	
<p>3/9. Benchmarking</p> <p>Professor Routledge presented Enclosure No. 6/AWMSG/0303 and asked the Group for comment. It was suggested that all prescribing indicators agreed in 3/14 should be factored into the paper. Two additional areas for comparison, respiratory disease and antidepressant use, were also suggested. Karen Samuels will take this issue forward on behalf of the Group. The Vice Chairman suggested that a report prepared by Alan Wilson who compared prescribing within Wales and Durham, and a report being prepared by the Public Health Service in North Wales within the University of Bangor who have studied variables in prescribing costs within local health groups in Wales, may be helpful.</p> <p><i>It was agreed</i> that the outcome of the studies and any updates would be reported back to the Group in due course.</p>	
<p>3/10. Health Commission Wales</p> <p>Mr Mike Pontin, Director of Health Service Policy and Development, WAG, informed the Group that HCW is the successor of SHSCW and is responsible for commissioning tertiary and secondary care services. A Chief Executive and Medical Director will be appointed in the near future. Mr Pontin suggested the Medical Director should be an observer at meetings of AWMSG and report to the group on developments at HCW. <i>It was agreed</i> that a member of AWMSG should be appointed to attend meetings of HCW to eliminate any likelihood of variability between the two groups on decision around the funding of drugs. The Chairman stated that he was looking forward to working closely with HCW.</p> <p>Drug budget allocation</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Group that apologies had been received from Mr David Thomas. He was unable to attend the meeting as he had been requested that morning to prepare a finance paper for the Minister. The paper will be copied to the Group and displayed on the website.</p>	
<p>3/11. Supplementary Prescribing</p> <p>Mr Mitchell presented Enclosure No. 8/AWMSG/2003 in which he asked AWMSG to</p>	

<p>support the establishment of a Task & Finish Group in Supplementary Prescribing to oversee the successful implementation of supplementary prescribing by nurses and pharmacists in Wales. He informed the group that £0.5M was being made available by WAG to train up to 250 nurse and pharmacists to become supplementary prescribers. The funding is non-recurring.</p> <p><i>It was agreed</i> that AWMSG support the establishment of a Task & Finish Group. Kathryn Bourne was nominated as the AWMSG representative on the Task & Finish Group for Supplementary Prescribing. <i>It was also agreed</i> that a recommendation be made that Mrs Bourne should Chair the Task and Finish Group and report back to AWMSG. This arrangement would be consistent with the operation of other AWMSG sub-groups.</p>	
<p>3/12. Implementation of Nurse Reporting of Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions</p> <p>Professor Routledge, on behalf of the WMP, outlined the report prepared by Dr Emma Lam on the extension of the yellow card scheme to nurse professionals. The Group considered this to be a significant clinical governance issue and the best way of cascading the information would be through the appropriate clinical governance lead. It was noted that each year all nurses undertook training in basic life support and this may provide an appropriate opportunity for training.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Green Card Scheme had not been implemented in Wales but contact had been made with the Drug Research Safety Unit to address this.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that following on from the last agenda item, adverse drug reaction reporting must become an integral part of the training of supplementary prescribers, and it was suggested the Task & Finish Group for Supplementary Prescribing should also take this issue forward.</p> <p><i>It was agreed</i> WMP should disseminate this information to all prescribers within NHS Wales and report back to the Group in twelve months time</p>	<p>WMP</p> <p>WMP</p>
<p>3/13. Update on Medusa Project</p> <p>Mr Robin Burfield of Health Solutions Wales presented Enclosure No. 10/AWMSG/0303 which updated the Group on the Medusa Project, which was presented to the Group initially in the October 2002 meeting. Phase I of the project is nearing completion and the target date set for full implementation of Phase II is December 2003. The Chairman highlighted the importance of a successful outcome to this project so that secondary care prescribing data was readily available.</p>	
<p>3/14. Prescribing Indicators</p> <p>The Chairman invited comments from the Group on Enclosure No. 11/AWMSG/0303. The Group discussed general comments and feedback received. It was noted that the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group would in future develop the indicators and report on this to AWMSG. The issues will be progressed long-term alongside the more detailed debate about specific indicators, and this process will start in summer 2003. AWMSG endorsed the proposed prescribing indicators and supported their development to implementation, particularly the setting of appropriate targets. The support of Health Solutions Wales in the provision of data needed to be progressed.</p>	<p>PH/SE/ CP</p>

<p><i>It was agreed</i> that the paper should be progressed by WMP, displayed on the website and recommended to the Minister for adoption.</p>	WMP
<p>3/15. Prescribing Incentive Scheme</p> <p>Mr Parry gave an overview of Enclosure No. 12/AWMSG/0303. The Group considered the need for an assessment of costs and discussed the benefits of prescribing incentive schemes in Wales. <i>It was agreed</i> that there is a need for evidence to support claims of success with incentive schemes. The Chairman asked for reassurance that all current incentive schemes are legal and sound. The Group agreed it would be prudent to continue with the current schemes for the financial year 2003/04 but clear guidance from WAG was required for 2004/2005.</p>	GP
<p>Date of next meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in the Gallery Meeting Room at the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, Wrexham at 1.00 pm on 4th June, 2003.</p>	