

ALL WALES MEDICINES STRATEGY GROUP

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2005
COMMENCING 10.30 AM AT THE BRYN HOWEL HOTEL,
TREVOR, LLANGOLLEN, DENBIGHSHIRE, LL20 7UW**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Dr Robert Bracchi LHB Prescribing Lead (deputy member)
General practitioner, Abergavenny, Gwent
2. Dr Paul Buss Consultant Clinician
Gwent Healthcare Trust
3. Dr Fraser Campbell LHB Medical Director
Gwynedd LHB
4. Mr Jeff Evans Other healthcare professionals eligible to prescribe
Senior Lecturer in Podiatry & Podiatric Surgeon,
Wales Centre for Podiatric Studies, UWIC, Cardiff.
5. Dr David Gozzard Trust Medical Director
Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust.
6. Dr Brian Hawkins Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
Rhondda Cynon Taff
7. Mr Peter Harsant Industry Representative
8. Cllr Meurig Hughes Lay Member
Llangefni, Ynys Mon
9. Mr David Morgan Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health
National Public Health Service, North Wales
Region
10. Prof Ceri Phillips Professor in Health Economics, School of Health
Science, University of Wales Swansea
11. Prof Roger Walker Chairman AWMSG
Consultant in Pharmaceutical Public Health
National Public Health Service, South East Wales
Region
12. Mrs Wendy Warren Nurse Director
Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust

IN ATTENDANCE:

15. Mr Jamie Hayes Director, Welsh Medicines Partnership

16.	Mrs Ruth Lang	Liaison Manager, Welsh Medicines Partnership
17.	Mr Paul Parker	Acting Head of the Pharmaceutical Services Branch Welsh Assembly Government
18.	Professor Philip Routledge	Medical Director, Welsh Medicines Partnership
19.	Mrs Karen Samuels	Programme Manager, Welsh Medicines Partnership
20.	Mrs Fiona Woods	Director, Welsh Medicines Partnership
21.	Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells	Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser Welsh Assembly Government

List of Abbreviations:

ASPB	Assembly Sponsored Public Body
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWDAC	All Wales Dietetic Advisory Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
DSRU	Drug Safety Research Unit
HCW	Health Commission Wales
HIW	Health Inspectorate Wales
HoPMMs	Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management
HSW	Health Solutions Wales
LHB	Local Health Board
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
M&TCs	Medicines & Therapeutics Committees
NAO	National Audit Office
NHSIF	NHS Industry Forum
NICE	National Institute of Clinical Excellence
NPHS	National Public Health Service
SMC	Scottish Medicines Consortium
SPC	Summary of Product Characteristics
TDA User Group	Therapeutic Development Appraisal User Group
T&FG	Task and Finish Group
WMP	Welsh Medicines Partnership

13/1 Welcome and Introduction

Action

The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced newly appointed members and Mr Paul Parker on his return. He confirmed that the proceedings are recorded and, by agreement of all members, simultaneous translation from English to Welsh would not be available at this meeting but could be reinstated in the future if required. Members introduced themselves. The Chairman outlined the format of the meeting and reported that the minutes would be posted on the AWMSG website.

13/2 Apologies

Mr Julian Baker (Finance Director) Caerphilly LHB
Dr Thomas Lau (LHB Prescribing Lead), Newport, Gwent
Mr Dave Roberts (Chief Pharmacist), Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust

13/3 Declarations of interest

The Chairman requested all new members to declare any interest to WMP and confirmed there were no declarations of interest pertinent to the agenda.

13/4 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were checked for accuracy and confirmed.

13/5 Matters arising

10/6 Chairman's report

Review of ASPBs

The Chairman reported that the public consultation, expected to take place over the summer months, will now take place early next year.

10/17 Broadening the AWMSG appraisal process

It was reported that, despite accepting the proposal in principle, no monies had been forthcoming from Welsh Assembly Government in relation to the bid by WMP for funding to support the broadening of the AWMSG appraisal process.

11/7 GP Out of hours

It was reported no progress had been made on this issue since Mrs Poulter had commenced maternity leave.

11/9 AWMSG future work programme

E11 GP Access to medication e.g. emergency medicine bags

It was reported no progress had been made on this issue by Welsh Assembly Government.

I15 Green Card Scheme

It was reported that limited progress had been made as the Drug Safety Research Unit in Southampton had been unable to resolve the software problems in relation to data capture.

12/6 Chairman's report

Prescribing Conference – 19/20 January 2006

Professor Philip Routledge confirmed that the guest speaker for the memorial lecture for Felicity Newton-Savage to be held on the evening of Thursday, 19th January is Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chairman of NICE. The title of the lecture will be announced at a later date.

12/10 Report on Task & Finish Group on Supplementary Prescribing

The Chairman enquired whether progress had been made in relation to the roll out of the training to other professions. Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells confirmed that the HSSD Management Board had agreed that the next cohort will be trained as independent prescribers. It was noted that a Task and Finish Group on Independent Prescribing would probably be established under the remit of AWMSG to take this work forward.

12/11 Prescribing publications

Mr Jamie Hayes confirmed that prescribing publications had been discussed at the July AWPAG meeting. It was agreed at that meeting that the matrix mechanism for identifying publication needs within NHS Wales would be useful but would require a full educational needs assessment. AWPAG members had agreed that this was outside the original WMP remit and that WMP did not have the capacity to undertake such a substantial piece of work. It was agreed that WMP would consider costing the work required outside the meeting. It was confirmed that the Paediatric BNF would be available in Wales from mid-October.

13/6 Chairman's report

The Chairman congratulated Professor Philip Routledge on this appointment as Chairman of the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee of the Commission on Human

Medicines.

The Chairman confirmed that the recommendations made by AWMSG in relation to the appraisal of pegvisomant (Somavert®) and bortezomib (Velcade®) had been ratified by the Minister for Health & Social Services. The announcement had been posted on the AWMSG website, disseminated throughout NHS Wales and will be included in the Chief Medical Officer's newsletter in October/November 2005.

Since the previous AWMSG meeting, AWMSG Steering Committee meetings had been held during June, July and August. Interviews for new members and deputies had been held during July and confirmation of the appointments was made by Welsh Assembly Government early in August. Induction training for new members and deputies had been held at the Cardiff Hilton Hotel on 23rd August.

On 7th July the Chairman attended a meeting held at the ABPI (Wales) offices, Cardiff Bay. Attendees included Mr David Brickwood (ABPI Board of Management), Dr Rick Greville (Director, ABPI Cymru, Wales, Jennie Hammond (Chairman, WIG) and Professor Philip Routledge (WMP). The Chairman informed members that the meeting was very productive and it had been agreed that further meetings should be held at six-monthly intervals.

The Chairman reported he had attended a meeting in London on 1st September organised by the Health Services Journal with Mr Andrew Dillon of NICE and Professor David Webb of SMC.

The Chairman confirmed that ratification of the revised AWMSG Constitution by the Minister had been delayed by the Assembly's legal advisers who had advised that further rewording was required. The Chairman confirmed this involved no changes of substance to the constitution.

The Chairman confirmed that the constitutions AWPAG and NHSIF had been amended and would be taken to the AWMSG Steering Committee in September for ratification. It is proposed that the constitutions would be taken to the sub-groups in October for discussion and brought back to AWMSG in December with any comments. It was confirmed that WMP is currently identifying members who wish to be reappointed to the sub-groups and the appointments will be ratified by the AWMSG Steering Committee in September. Vacant posts for sub-group membership will be identified and nominations will be sought from the appropriate professional groups. Vacancies will be posted on the AWMSG website.

Mr Jeff Evans confirmed that he would undertake to link with the patient interest groups along with the lay member, Councillor Meurig Hughes, in relation to AWMSG appraisals.

Dr Paul Buss agreed to provide the link between AWMSG and AWPAG.

Mr David Morgan agreed to continue to provide the link between AWMSG and NHSIF.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to provide support to WMP in relation to the AWMSG website and Mr Peter Harsant subsequently agreed to undertake this task.

The Chairman announced there will be two appraisals at the AWMSG December 2005 meeting:

Cetuximab (Erbix®) in combination with irinotecan indicated for the treatment patients with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) – expressing metastatic

colorectal cancer after failure of irinotecan - including cytotoxic therapy.
Company: Merck Pharmaceuticals

Cytarabine Liposomal (Depocyte®) for the intrathecal treatment of lymphomatous meningitis. In the majority of patients, such treatment will be part of the symptomatic palliation of the disease.

Company: Napp Pharmaceuticals

13/7 Agreement between WMP and HCW in relation to assessment of medicines

Professor Philip Routledge provided a brief overview of Enc 2/AWMSG/0905 and the Chairman invited members to comment. Members sought reassurance that there would be no conflict with the work of AWMSG in relation to the parallel assessment of medicines. The Chairman requested WMP to bring a paper to the December 2005 meeting defining the nature of the support WMP will be providing to HCW.

WMP

The Chairman directed members' attention to the paper on the role of the AWMSG Steering Committee and the proposal that a representative of HCW be invited to attend the meeting for agenda items relating to the appraisal programme. It was agreed there is a need to foster better links with HCW and members supported the proposal.

13/8 Monitoring uptake of AWMSG appraisal recommendations

Mrs Karen Samuels provided an overview of Enc 3/AWMSG/0905. She confirmed that the data presented was unreliable and outlined the difficulties experienced in obtaining robust information. Mr Peter Harsant confirmed that industry would be happy to contribute data and WMP agreed to continue dialogue in this respect. He proposed widening the scope and suggested that an analysis of negative decisions be undertaken.

The Chairman confirmed that HIW had been tasked with monitoring the implementation of NICE guidance and AWMSG recommendations. It was acknowledged that this was a first attempt to identify uptake following AWMSG appraisal. WMP agreed to take on board the general comments, progress the work, standardize the dataset and bring back to a future meeting.

13/9 Shared care

The Chairman invited Dr Tessa Lewis, a general practitioner in Torfaen and deputy AWPAG member, to present a brief overview of Enc 4/AWMSG/0905. Members were invited to comment.

The Chairman suggested that reference to CSM would be changed to Commission on Human Medicines and asked that minor inconsistencies be standardized within the five protocols. It was agreed that an electronic link should be provided within the protocols to the website of the current SPCs. The Group supported the concept of a template for local adaptation. It was agreed that key specialist secondary care consultants should be offered the opportunity to comment on the draft documents. There was discussion over the mechanism for discontinuation of an individual agreement, review dates for the documentation and the time allowed for a GP to respond to correspondence. There was a suggestion that "responsibilities of the pharmacist" be added to the methotrexate template. WMP confirmed that a mixed response had been received from HoPMMs and Chief Pharmacists to AWPAG's suggestion that WMP work with interface pharmacists to develop templates for other shared care protocols.

WMP /

It was suggested that AWPAG identify those drugs for which all Wales shared care templates would be appropriate. **AWPAG**

13/10 National Prescribing Indicators incorporating prescribing trends & examples of good practice

Mrs Karen Samuels presented an overview of Enc 5/AWMSG/0905 and confirmed that the information provided compared quarter ending March 2005 to quarter ending March 2004. Members agreed that the document should be disseminated within the Service for information. **RW /WMP**

Mrs Samuels confirmed that WMP was in the process of arranging a working group to discuss the indicators for 2006/2007 so that a discussion document could be taken to the AWPAG meeting in October. **WMP**

It was noted that the formulary indicator was not included in the 2005/2006 indicators and hence had not been reported upon.

WMP agreed to progress the dissemination of prescribing messages at the WMP prescribing conference in January 2006. **WMP**

13/11 Report on the NHS Industry Forum

Mr David Morgan provided an overview of Enc 6/AWMSG/0905, the minutes of the NHSIF meeting in July, and highlighted salient points.

It was confirmed that the Shortages Committee is a committee set up by the Department of Health to consider shortage medicines and advise on the shortage management. It was agreed that NHSIF would explore the availability and dissemination of warnings and guidelines on how to deal with shortages of medications in Wales and report back to AWMSG. **NHSIF**

The NHSIF recommended that AWMSG re-audit the prescribing structures in Wales. It was agreed that WMP would carry out the audit.

13/12 Report on All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group

In the absence of an AWPAG member, WMP representatives offered to take questions from the Group in relation to the meeting held in July 2005. Mrs Fiona Woods confirmed that membership of the inappropriate generics working group had been agreed and that a meeting would be held at the end of September or early October. **AWPAG working group**

It was noted that the indicator working group still had some work to do on the new antidepressant indicator that was replacing co-proxamol. It had been agreed with AWPAG that this work would be completed by their October meeting and, subject to Chairman's action, would then be presented to the Welsh Assembly Government as the national indicators for 2006/2007.

13/13 Prescribing Strategy

Professor Philip Routledge presented discussion document Enc 9/AWMSG/0905 and invited general comments to assist the development of a single cohesive prescribing strategy. Comments from members included:

- The need to include the role of the community pharmacist
- The need for a whole systems approach to prescribing
- Inclusion of the NPSA training module for prescribers to reduce medication errors
- Consideration of patient outcomes
- Inclusion of resource allocation model

The Group endorsed the development of advice on fair and transparent budget setting in primary and secondary care.

It was agreed that WMP would invite nominations for a working group to consider the feasibility of incentivising all sectors of the NHS involved in prescribing. The Chairman confirmed that the Medusa project was well advanced and could now provide meaningful data for secondary care.

WMP

The Group endorsed the proposal to survey the prescribing support staff workforce in LHBs, and Trusts and identify examples of best practice. It was confirmed that a letter had been sent out to all LHBs regarding the All Wales Prescribing Incentive Scheme to identify and monitor progress in those LHBs who had chosen to adopt it.

It was agreed that WMP would seek nominations for a Task and Finish Group with representatives drawn from AWMSG, AWPAG, NHSIF and other relevant bodies to address key issues and develop a sustainable prescribing strategy for Wales. The Chairman requested a timetable for the work programme should be drawn up and presented to the December 2005 meeting of AWMSG.

WMP

13/14 Sip feeds

Mrs Karen Samuels presented an overview of Enc 8/AWMSG/0905, a document combining the two sub-group reports on sip feeds as requested in their agreed brief. WMP requested the Committee to note that the separate reports of the NHSIF and AWPAG had been included as appendices for reference. The Chairman invited Mr David Morgan, Chairman of the NHSIF Working Group on Sip Feeds to comment.

Mr Morgan expressed concern that some of the recommendations made by the NHSIF working group had not been taken into account in the combined document simply because they were considered outside the brief of the NHSIF working group. Mr Morgan requested that the recommendations not included in the combined document but set out on p4 and p5 of Enclosure 9 (Appendix 1) in detail be given further consideration.

The Chairman invited Dr Tessa Lewis, Chair of the AWPAG working group to comment.

It was agreed that the AWPAG recommendation that the initial prescription should provide sufficient quantities to last for two weeks be amended to "up to two weeks".

It was confirmed that the NICE guidance on sip feeds would be available in January

2006. The Chairman requested that formal contact be made with AWDAC to address the development of the paper and prepare for the implementation of the NICE guidance. It was agreed that WMP and/or representatives of the working groups should meet with AWDAC if at all possible.

**WMP/
working
group**

Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells, Welsh Assembly Government, requested that the term drug misusers/abusers be replaced with substance misuser and informed the Group that resources to take the recommendations forward may be available.

13/15 Supporting the whole health economy – interface engagement

Mr Jamie Hayes presented an overview of Enc 10/AWMSG/0905 on behalf of AWPAG and invited comments from the Group to take back to the sub-group meeting in October. Comments included:

- An LHB Medical Director should be part of the working group
- Amend wording to read “AWPAG suggest a group to include:”
- Amend wording to read “....improve prescribing pathways between secondary and primary care”
- Need for an evidence-based approach
- To be incorporated within the prescribing strategy

AWMSG supported the proposal that the task and finish group take the concept of interface engagement further and emphasized the need to incorporate their work as part of the proposed prescribing strategy.

13/16 Consultation – Prescribing Allocation

As AWMSG representative on the Prescribing Allocation Task and Finish Group, Professor Ceri Phillips provided an overview of the final report in relation to the on-going development of a direct needs based prescribing allocation formula for Wales.

The Chairman gave his general support to the recommendations in the report and agreed to compile a response to the consultation on behalf of AWMSG.

RW

13/17 Consultation – Medicines and Older People July 2005

The Chairman invited members to comment on the Welsh Assembly Government National Service Framework for Older People in Wales consultation. Comments included:

- A need for discharge pro-forma to inform and avoid confusion
- Little or no reference to relevant NICE guidance within the document
- A need to develop the role of the expert carer in addition to the expert patient
- The need for a co-ordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to the provision of care and treatment
- A need to ensure that CPD providers across Wales focus on the provision of educational programmes that support the National Service Framework
- Support with caution the introduction of programmes to undertake domiciliary reviews of medication
- Co-ordinated support in relation to audit

AWMSG endorsed the recommendation that older people should not be denied

medicines that could bring significant health benefit.

RW

The Chairman gave his general support to the recommendations in the report and agreed to compile a response to the consultation on behalf of AWMSG.

13/18 Draft Clinical Guidelines from the Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group

Professor Philip Routledge presented an overview of Enc 13/AWMSG/0905 and the Chairman invited comment in relation to the two guidance documents.

All Wales Professional Guidance for Breast Cancer: The use of hormone therapy

It was confirmed that as AWMSG had not been party to the development of the guidance AWMSG could not endorse the document, only comment on its content. There was, however, general support for the work undertaken and its potential value to the service was substantial.

Comments from members included:

- There was a need to use a recognised and standardized approach to the literature search.
- It was unclear which treatments were new and which were already in routine practice. Similarly it was not clear when proposed use was outside the licensed indication.
- The additional costs associated with new drugs or new regimens were not presented
- A number of statements within the text appeared to have little evidence base.
- The involvement of a pharmaceutical company in the production of guidance should occur within a defined but transparent framework. Members were not comfortable with the relationship as set out.
- Declarations of conflict of contributors were not clearly set out.
- Not all statements recommending therapy were evidence based and the strong endorsement for use of an industry sponsored online service should be justified.
- The incorporation of a review date and the process thereof should be an integral part of developing the document.
- The document should make it clear where approval from a local MTC or AWMSG may be required before a drug is used. It should be clear that inclusion of a drug within the guidance does not obviate the need for the medicine to be appraised for use within NHS Wales.
- The inclusion of a link to the electronic SPC may be helpful.

All Wales Guidelines for the Treatment of Patients with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST)

The potential for the document to improve patient care was recognised. However a number of the issues raised above were reiterated particularly those relating to the literature search and appraisal process, declarations of interest, involvement of the sponsor etc. Comments raised that were additional to those already noted included:

- Use of generic drug names and the citing and format of references should be in accordance with accepted convention
- There are inconsistencies in percentages quoted when describing the incidence of the same condition

- Reference to interactions with herbal medicines may be appropriate
- Link to be provided to current SPC

Professor Routledge reiterated that though pharmaceutical companies had provided resource to host the meeting, the production of the guidelines had been professionally led. Concern was expressed by members that the references and literature search had been provided by industry.

WMP agreed to offer to provide an independent literature search in relation to future guideline generation and forward detailed comments to the Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group.

WMP

Prior to closing the meeting, Professor Roger Walker announced he would be stepping down as Chairman after the December meeting.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th December 2005 in the Orangery, Margam Country Park. Details will be posted on the website.