

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/1123
Agenda Item No:	1 – Minutes of previous meeting
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All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

**Draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held
at 9.00 am on Monday 11th September 2023 at Cardiff Metropolitan
University, Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

Voting members present:

**Did not
participate in
agenda item:**

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Chair |
| 2. | Prof Stephen Monaghan | Consultant in Public Health Medicine |
| 3. | Dr Helen Fardy | WHSSC |
| 4. | Mr Farhan Mughal | ABPI (Wales) |
| 5. | Julie Wilson-Thomas | Lay Representative |
| 6. | Mrs Pam James | Lay Representative |
| 7. | Mr Dylan Jones | Community Pharmacist |
| 8. | Dr Richard Skone | Medical Director |
| 9. | Dr Jeremy Black | GP with prescribing lead role |
| 10. | Ms Alison Hughes | Senior Primary Care Pharmacist |
| 11. | Mr Hywel Pullen | Director of Finance |
| 12. | Ms Katherine White | Senior Nurse |
| 13. | Ms Cathy Wynne | Other healthcare professions eligible
to prescribe |
| 14. | Dr Sam Cox | Hospital Consultant |
| 15. | Mr Jonathan Simms | Chief Pharmacist |

Non-voting members present:

Welsh Government
Mr Andrew Evans

Medicines Value Unit:

Mr Mark Francis

AWTTC staff:

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist
Mr Trevor Brooking, Administration Manager
Dr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist
Mr David Haines, Scientist/Medical Writer
Mr Anthony Williams, Interim Programme Director
Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU

List of abbreviations:

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
IR	Independent review
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Access Group
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members and observers, and explained the meeting protocol.

2. Apologies:

Prof Iolo Doull, Chairman
Mrs Claire James, Lay member
Dr Manjeet Singh, Clinical Pharmacologist
Dr Alison Thomas, Clinical Pharmacologist

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chair invited declarations of interest. There were none.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2023 were checked for accuracy. Hywel Pullen pointed out that his apologies had not been noted in the minutes. It was confirmed that the minutes of the most recent AWPAG meeting would be circulated to AWMSG members outside of the meeting. With these amendments the minutes of the meeting were approved.

5. Chairman's report (verbal update)

The Chair welcomed Mark Francis as a non-voting member representing the Medicines Value Unit.

Members were informed that the 2022-23 AWMSG Annual report has been published on the AWTTC website and thanked Alice Varnava (AWTTC) for overseeing its production and everyone who contributed.

Members were invited to an informal session at the close of this meeting to discuss the new AWMSG medicines strategy.

Members were informed that the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group held a virtual consultation in July to review One Wales advice for:

Off-label rituximab for treatment of pemphigus and pemphigoid disease. This excludes the licensed indication of pemphigus vulgaris, which has positive AWMSG advice;

Off-label azacitidine for maintenance treatment of progressive angioablatic T-cell lymphoma and:

Off-label arsenic trioxide for treatment of high risk acute promyelocytic leukaemia.

Members were asked to note the decision of OWMAG is to continue to support use of all three medicines for these indications.

Members were informed that following the July AWMSG meeting, Gilead Science submitted a request to review AWMSG's recommendation regarding Emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (Descovy®) for Pre-exposure prophylaxis of human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection. It was noted that Gilead did not provide a submission for the AWMSG appraisal process and the evidence considered by AWMSG was largely compiled from information available in the public domain. Delegates from Gilead had attended the meeting and given opportunity to input into discussions and raise any issues. Due to the lack of evidence for cost-effectiveness AWMSG did not recommend use of this medicine for the indication considered. It was confirmed that the Chairman had reviewed the request for review and did not consider there was justification for any complaints against the process or the decision. Members were informed that confirmation of this decision had been forwarded to Gilead and it was confirmed that the recommendation announced at the previous meeting would be forwarded to Welsh Government.

The Chair announced that Andy Champion will start his new role as AWTTTC Programme Director week commencing Monday 16th October.

Members were informed of the extension of AWTTTC's international collaboration with health technology assessment agencies, with a list of participating agencies provided. Members were informed of the priority work areas for this collaboration and were told further information is on the NICE and AWTTTC websites, and updates will be included in future meetings.

Members were informed about the Best Practice Day hosted by AWTTTC at Cardiff City Stadium on the 13th July. Mrs Claire Thomas provided members with more information about the day and some of the feedback received.

6. National Prescribing Indicators 2022-23: Analysis of prescribing data to March 2023

Shaila Ahmed provided an overview of the NPI data which was presented to AWMSG for information. Members were informed that data for trastuzumab

has been removed from the section on 'Best value biological medicines' due to issues with the data held within the Medusa data warehouse. When the data issue has been resolved an updated version of this quarterly report will be published.

There was brief discussion around the prescribing safety indicator related to number of patients with asthma who have been prescribed a beta-blocker, and the possibility of changing that indicator to include only non-cardio-selective beta-blockers. A query was also raised around how prescribing of anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation patients who have a CHA₂DS₂-VASc score of 2 or more could best be monitored. In both cases, members were informed that these points would be raised when the NPIs are reviewed.

7. Endocrine management of gender incongruence in adults: Prescribing guidance for non-specialist practitioners – update for information

Tom Curran informed members of recent updates to the 'Endocrine management of gender incongruence in adults: Prescribing guidance for non-specialist practitioners' presented to AWMSG for information.

8. Primary care antimicrobial guidelines – update for information

Tom Curran informed members of recent updates to the 'Scarlet fever' and 'Vaginal candidiasis' sections of the 'Primary care antimicrobial guidelines' presented to AWMSG for information.

9. SBAR: Medicines optimisation resources – Process for archival – proposal for endorsement

Tom Curran provided members with an overview of AWTTTC's proposed system to review and archive resources hosted on the AWTTTC website. The proposed system was explained and members were asked to vote on whether they approved the process.

Discussion was raised around the potential issues with removing resources from the website. Members discussed the time period used to trigger consideration for archival, and it was suggested a 'case by case' basis may be more appropriate. Concerns about the practicalities of physicians accessing archived resources in a timely manner, and also of older resources not archived containing outdated and potentially harmful guidance were discussed.

Overall, members felt a compromise should be found between continuing to enable access to older resources should aspects of them remain useful, while making it immediately clear (on the website and the document itself) that those same resources may no longer be up-to-date and are not being maintained. Further suggestions included signposting to alternative up-to-date resources where appropriate, and having a clear and documented decision framework used by AWPAG when deciding when and why documents should be archived.

It was agreed that AW TTC would produce an updated version of the SBAR based on the feedback received, for approval by the AWMSG Chair and for sharing with members.

Action: AW TTC to update SBAR based on feedback for Chair's approval, followed by sharing with AWMSG members.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 10th October 2023
Venue: Cardiff (All Nations Centre)