

Enclosure No:	<b>1/AWMSG/0623</b>
Agenda Item No:	<b>1 – Minutes of previous meeting</b>
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## **All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)**

**Draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held  
at 9.00 am on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at Cardiff Metropolitan  
University, Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

<b>Voting members present:</b>		<b>Did not participate in agenda item: 9,10,11</b>
1.	<b>Prof Iolo Doull                      Chairman</b>	
2.	<b>Prof Stephen Monaghan            Consultant in Public Health Medicine</b>	
3.	<b>Prof Dyfrig Hughes                    Health Economist</b>	
4.	<b>Mr Tommy Price                        ABPI (Wales)</b>	
5.	<b>Mrs Claire James                      Lay Representative</b>	
6.	<b>Mrs Pam James                         Lay Representative</b>	
8.	<b>Dr Richard Skone                        Medical Director</b>	
9.	<b>Mr Jonathan Simms                      Chief Pharmacist</b>	
10.	<b>Ms Alison Hughes                       Senior Primary Care Pharmacist</b>	
11.	<b>Mr Hywel Pullen                         Director of Finance</b>	
12.	<b>Mr Stuart Rees                          Senior Hospital Pharmacist</b>	
13.	<b>Mrs Katherine White                    Senior Nurse</b>	
14.	<b>Dr Manjeet Singh                        Hospital Consultant</b>	
15.	<b>Dr Alison Thomas                        Clinical Pharmacologist</b>	<b>1,2,3,4,5</b>

**Welsh Government:**  
Mr Andrew Evans

**AWTTC staff:**

Mr Trevor Brooking, Administration Manager  
Dr Carolyn Hughes, Medical Writer  
Mrs Rachel Jonas, Medical Writer  
Ms Karen Jones, Senior Pharmacist  
Mrs Ruth Lang, Senior Liaison Manager  
Mr Anthony Williams, Interim Programme Director  
Mrs Helen Adams, Senior Pharmacist  
Dr Stephanie Francis, Senior Scientist

**List of abbreviations:**

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
ASAR	AWMSG Secretariat Assessment Report
ATMP	Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
BMA	British Medical Association
CAPIG	Clinical and Patient Involvement Group
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme
CHMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
DoH	Department of Health
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EMIG	Ethical Medicines Industry Group
EOL	End of life
FAR	Final Appraisal Recommendation
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration
GP	General Practitioner
HAC	High Acquisition Cost
HB	Health Board
HEIW	Health Education and Improvement Wales
HST	Highly Specialised Technology
HTA	Health Technology Assessment
ILAP	Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway
IR	Independent Review
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
M&TC	Medicines & Therapeutics Committee
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NMG	New Medicines Group
NPI	National Prescribing Indicator
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
PAMS	Patient Access to Medicines Service
PAR	Preliminary Appraisal Recommendation
PAS	Patient Access Scheme
PPRS	Prescription Price Regulation Scheme
QAIF	Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework
RCGP	Royal College of General Practitioners
SABA	Short-acting beta agonist
SMC	Scottish Medicines Consortium
SPC	Summary of Product Characteristics
SPIRA	Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis

TDAPG	Therapeutic Development Appraisal Partnership Group
T&FG	Task and Finish Group
UHB	University Health Board
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre
WG	Welsh Government
WHO	World Health Organization
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
WPAS	Wales Patient Access Scheme

## 1. **Welcome and introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members and observers, and explained the meeting protocol. Mr Jonathan Sims was welcomed to his first AWMSG meeting as Chief Pharmacist representative.

## 2. **Apologies:**

Dr Helen Fardy, Welsh Health Specialised Services Commission  
Mr Dylan Jones, Community Pharmacist

## 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 16 May 2023 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

## 5. **Chairman's report (verbal update)**

The Chair informed members that he will be leaving the meeting at 10 am to attend a Health and Social Care Committee enquiry into gynaecological cancer treatments. Professor Dyfrig Hughes will take over as Chair.

The Chair confirmed that the 2022–2023 AWMSG annual report on target for publication in September.

The Chair informed members that AWTTTC had taken an exhibition stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Llandovery from 29 May to 3 June and raised public awareness of the Yellow Card Scheme for reporting serious adverse reactions to medicines and the Common Ailments Service.

The Chair reported the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group had reviewed advice on sorafenib for maintenance treatment following allogeneic stem cell transplantation for acute myeloid leukaemia associated with a FLT3 ITD mutation. A decision was made to continue to support use of sorafenib for this indication and the advice will be reviewed again in three years. It was noted that Wales is the first nation to implement a change in treatment pathway for myasthenia gravis in adults, in line with updated guidelines, due to the recently AWMSG endorsed OWMAG recommendation to change rituximab to first-line use in this indication.

The Chair announced that Mrs Claire Thomas has been appointed Head of WAPSU / Medicines Optimisation Lead and interviews for the Programme

Director post will be held on 22 June.

Members were informed that a review of process for medicines access is being undertaken and AWTTTC will be forming a Task and Finish Group to progress this work.

The Chair confirmed the appraisal of Emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (as fumarate) (Descovy®) 200 mg/25 mg film coated tablets for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in at-risk men who have sex with men, including adolescents (with body weight at least 35 kg) at the next AWMSG meeting in July. The Chair asked members to declare any interests in relation to the medicine or Gilead Sciences Limited ahead of the meeting.

#### **6. AWMSG Medicines Strategy (verbal update)**

Dr Stephanie Francis provided a summary of the top-level objectives which will underpin the AWMSG medicines strategy which include optimising value; medicine access; safety; and improving patient outcomes. Dr Francis explained that AWTTTC will be liaising with appropriate partners and formulating outcomes measures. Dr Francis confirmed the next update will be brought to AWMSG in September.

The Chair thanked members for their input and confirmed AWMSG's support for this work to be progressed.

#### **7. All Wales Common Ailments Service (CAS) formulary**

Louise Allen, Head of community pharmacy CAVUHB the gave an overview of the Common Ailments Service (CAS). Alya Al-Affan, Senior Pharmacist in the Welsh Medicines Advice Service (WMAS) highlighted the changes made which aim to improve the service and make it as useful and accessible as possible. Lindsay Davies, Senior Manager for Publications in WMAS explained the constraints around the service, which included integration of this service to the wider groups and ensuring patients have the most appropriate access to healthcare professionals. The training requirements for pharmacists involved in the scheme was clarified.

The Chair opened discussion. Concerns were raised with regards to the inclusion of paracetamol for lower back pain and the lack of evidence to support use. The authors provided justification for its inclusion. Members sought reassurance that the Choose Pharmacy platform allows other pharmacists to see previous consultations and it was confirmed that a summary is shared with GPs. It was noted that all CAS consultations and treatments are free of charge and there is no financial impact on users of the service. A suggestion was made to signpost to the All Wales Pharmacological Management of Pain Guidance.

There was discussion regarding promotion of the common ailments service. A suggestion was made to consider broadening this to include a radio advertising campaign.

The Chair thanked presenters and members for the discussion and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the updated Common Ailments

Formulary.

**8. Report on the National Pharmacogenomics Group (NPGG)**

Prof Dyfrig Hughes provided an update on the activities and achievements of the National Pharmacogenomics Group since its first meeting on 18 March 2022 and confirmed that quarterly updates will be presented to AWMSG. The ABPI member asked if a pharmaceutical industry representative could be added as a key stakeholder and Professor Hughes agreed to seek the views of the Group.

*Prof Iolo Doull left the meeting and Prof Dyfrig Hughes took over as Chair.*

**9. AWMSG Code of Conduct review**

Mrs Ruth Lang informed members that the Code of Conduct had been reviewed and minor changes made to align wording with the AWMSG Constitution. The committee noted the changes.

**10. Tramadol patient information leaflets: easy read and plain language versions**

Ms Karen Jones and Dr Carolyn Hughes presented easy read booklets of AWTTTC's patient information leaflet for tramadol, in Welsh and English. The easy read booklets were developed and translated by Learning Disability Wales. This is the first easy read format of an AWTTTC resource.

Members agreed this is positive step forward and good to see stakeholder engagement. It is anticipated that user testing and feedback will be the most challenging part of the process. It was confirmed that AWTTTC is aiming to make easy read formats available for all of its resources that are aimed at patients and the public.

It was suggested that, to try to reduce printing, a QR code for each easy read booklet could be generated and added to the booklet.

The Chair thanked members for their input and confirmed AWMSG's support for this work to be progressed.

**11. Any other business**

There was no other business.

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 11 July 2023.