

Enclosure No:	<b>1/AWMSG/1223</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 hybrid meeting held  
9.30 am on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at  
Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

### **Voting members present:**

**Did not  
participate in  
agenda item:**

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Prof Iolo Doull</b>       | <b>Chairman</b>   |
| <b>2. Mr David Fox</b>          | <b>Senior Hospital Pharmacist</b>                         |
| <b>3. Prof Dyfrig Hughes</b>    | <b>Health Economist</b>                                   |
| <b>4. Mr Karl Jackson</b>       | <b>Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe</b> |
| <b>5. Mrs Claire James</b>      | <b>Lay Representative</b>                                 |
| <b>6. Mrs Pam James</b>         | <b>Lay Representative</b>                                 |
| <b>7. Mr Dylan Jones</b>        | <b>Community Pharmacist</b>                               |
| <b>8. Prof Stephen Monaghan</b> | <b>Consultant in Public Health Medicine</b>               |
| <b>9. Dr Saja Muwaffak</b>      | <b>Welsh Health Specialised Services Commission</b>       |
| <b>10. Ms Kate Parrish</b>      | <b>ABPI (Wales)</b>                                       |
| <b>11. Mr Hywel Pullen</b>      | <b>Director of Finance</b>                                |
| <b>12. Mr Jonathan Simms</b>    | <b>Chief Pharmacist</b>                                   |
| <b>13. Dr Manjeet Singh</b>     | <b>Hospital Consultant</b>                                |
| <b>14. Dr Alison Thomas</b>     | <b>Clinical Pharmacologist</b>                            |
| <b>15. Ms Katherine White</b>   | <b>Senior Nurse</b>                                       |

## **Non-voting members present:**

### **Welsh Government:**

Ms Emma Williams

### **Medicines value unit:**

Mr Mark Francis

### **AWTTC staff:**

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Advanced Pharmacist

Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Andy Champion, Programme Director

Mr Thomas Curran, Senior Scientist

Mrs Siân Harbon, Secretariat

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. He sought clarification of the members attending online and confirmed that the quorum had been met.

## **2. Apologies:**

Dr Jeremy Black, GP with prescribing lead role

Ms Rafia Jamil, Primary Care Pharmacist

Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director

## **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<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were checked for accuracy and approved. The Chair updated members on the outstanding action of updating the process for archiving out of date guidance. AWTTC is working on the document and it will come back to AWMSG when the changes have been completed.

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

The Chair welcomed Andrew Champion to AWMSG in his new role as AWTTC's Programme Director and thanked Tony Williams for covering this role in the interim following the retirement of Karen Samuels in April 2023.

The Chair confirmed that the AWMSG Medicines Strategy 2024-2029 has been sent to key stakeholders and partners for comment and announced the three ongoing consultations:

- All Wales Adult Asthma Management and Prescribing Guidelines (2023 update)
- All Wales Common Ailments Service formulary – Monograph for urinary tract infection in women
- Initial clinical management of nicotine withdrawal in adults in secondary care

Members were informed that the AWTTTC Industry Forum met on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to monitor the implementation of HTA guidance and discuss medicines access and optimisation. Members discussed the programme for the Industry Open Day on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to be held at the All Nations Centre.

The Chair informed the committee that AWMSG's Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) met on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and the presentations are available on the PAPIG section of the AWTTTC website. The virtual meeting included talks on *C. difficile* infection, the safety of herbal medicines and members were shown the new All Wales Medicines Strategy Group's (AWMSG) 5-year strategy and invited to comment. The next PAPIG meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

A meeting of the New Medicines Group was held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and members explored possible options for changing the role and remit of the Group to take account of the changes to medicines access in Wales. NMG is considering the expansion of its remit to include medicines where patient access is problematic because the evidence available is insufficient to meet the rigour of HTA.

It was confirmed that the AWMSG advice on emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (Descovy®) for pre-exposure prophylaxis of human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection has not yet been ratified by Welsh Government.

The Chair congratulated Dylan Jones for winning the "Innovations in Service Delivery in Community Pharmacy" award at the event held at The Vale Resort on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Wales Pharmacy Awards celebrate the hard work and dedication of the Pharmacy Community in Wales. The Chair passed on the best wishes of AWMSG to Berwyn Owen who won the Special Recognition Award.

The Chair informed the committee that he attended the 2023 NICE Conference in Manchester along with AWTTTC colleagues.

The Chair announced that Medicines Safety Week will run from 6-12 November and AWTTTC will be actively promoting AWMSG-endorsed guidance and encouraging the reporting of adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme.

## **6. Withdrawal of national desflurane contract in Wales**

Mr Richard Boldero, Dr Sean Tobin and Dr Simon Ford gave an overview of the current situation with the anaesthetic gas desflurane, its usage and plan to stop its use in Wales and across the UK. It was explained that desflurane has a very high carbon footprint and both Scotland and England have already taken steps to withdraw desflurane. The Chair opened discussion.

Dr Tobin was asked to explain why Wales is delaying the withdrawal of desflurane until June 2024. Dr Tobin confirmed the contract is due to end in June 2024 and he said that time was needed for changes in practice.

Members discussed the disposal of stocks and a suggestion was made to serve notice to the supplier to terminate the contract at the earliest opportunity. Mr Mark Francis briefly explained the contractual process and offered to look into this matter outside of the meeting.

The lay member sought clarification that people with needle phobias would not be disadvantaged and she questioned the meteorological evidence of the environmental effects. Dr Tobin provided reassurance that people with needle phobias would not be disadvantaged, and that desflurane offered no clinical or cost benefit to people living in Wales, and explained there are differences of opinion within the meteorological scientist community.

The Chair thanked Dr Tobin and Dr Ford for attending the meeting. Dr Ford commended the group on the quality of the process. The Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the paper.

## **7. All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline**

Mr Richard Boldero and Dr Ramsey Sabit presented an overview of the guideline. Mr Boldero informed members that very few changes had been made in comparison to the previous document. It was confirmed that AWPAG members had agreed that the changes constituted a minor update and no consultation was required. Dr Sabit advised that a small change was needed to the infographic to replace one of the current inhaler choices with an alternative that is beneficial both financially and environmentally. The Chair opened discussion. The issues of clinician choice, difference in inspiratory flow rates and inhaler technique were discussed. The lay member asked if the COPD hub app is available in Welsh. Dr Sabit confirmed that currently this is an English only resource. He also confirmed the QR code and app information is available to patients without access to digital technology via paper copy.

The Chair thanked Dr Sabit for attending and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the update.

## **8. Decarbonisation - inhaler prescribing, use and disposal 2023-2030. A National strategy for Wales**

Mr Richard Boldero and Mrs Sian Evans provided members with details of the decarbonisation strategy for inhaler prescribing, use and disposal in Wales. Mrs Evans advised that the aim of the task and finish group is to coordinate and accelerate Wales towards the targets set for decarbonisation. It was confirmed that the consultation responses are helpful and will provide further direction for the group. Mrs Evans made it clear that the strategy

supports the guidelines already endorsed by AWMSG.

The Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the strategy.

**9. Wales Cancer Network – Guideline for management of hydration during systemic anti-cancer therapy containing cisplatin**

Mr Thomas Curran explained the acknowledgement process and outlined the purpose of the SACT resources hub. Members were asked to consider the enclosed document as the first in a series of forthcoming documents, and asked whether they were happy to acknowledge the resource hub being signposted from the AWTTTC website.

The lay member asked if a patient information leaflet would be produced relevant to section 5.2.1.

**Action: Mr Curran agreed to relay this question to the SACT group for consideration and action**

Members agreed to acknowledge the resource as the first in a series and for the hub to be signposted from the AWTTTC website.

**10. Feedback from AWPAG meeting held 20 September 2023**

Mrs Claire Thomas provided an overview of discussions at AWPAG and updated the committee with regards to the numerous documents presented.

It has been agreed that separate version of All Wales policy for medicines administration, recording, review, storage and disposal (MARRS) will be developed for healthcare and social care.

The medicine optimisation archival process is being worked on by AWTTTC.

A section within the prescribing dilemmas document relating to private shared care is being considered for review.

The common ailments service formulary section on sore throat is being update by the Welsh Medicine's Advice Service.

The NPI subgroup is due to meet on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and any expressions of interest to join the group will be welcomed.

**11. National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2023-24. Analysis of prescribing data to Jun 23**

Mr Richard Boldero and Ms Shaila Ahmed provided an overview of the report. It was noted that tramadol prescribing is down 8.39% and total antimicrobial prescribing is down by 2.66%, both compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The Chair opened discussion.

There was discussion around biosimilar medicines and the costs associated with switching. Members agreed the importance of using the most clinically appropriate and best value medicine. There was a query regarding the performance of the indicators and members were informed that Welsh

Government will be writing to each health board with an individual report on performance against a number of the NPIs. It was noted that the demography of an area often impacts performance of the NPIs. The lay member welcomed the highlighting of good practice sections within the report.

## **12. Medicines Value Unit Strategy**

The Chair welcomed Mr Mark Francis as a non-voting member to AWMSG representing the Medicines Value Unit. Mr Francis gave an overview of his role and explained that the unit's main aim is to deliver affordable medicines to NHS Wales. He commended the One Wales process in reviewing dostarlimab and abiraterone in making these medicines accessible to patients living in Wales. He highlighted the close working relationships between AWTTTC, the MVU and the pharmaceutical industry. Mr Francis presented the MVU Strategy: Mrs Thomas explained that AWMSG is unable to endorse the strategy document as it had not been through the AWMSG process which involves consultation. There was agreement that people need timely access to the best value medicines and the MVU, AWMSG and AWTTTC all have a critical role in this. The Chair confirmed AWMSG's support of the work of the Medicines Value Unit and thanked Mr Francis for his presentation.

## **13. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday, 5th December 2023 Venue: Cardiff (All Nations Centre)**