

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0623
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 09.30 am on Tuesday, 16th May 2023 at
The All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY**

Voting members present:			Did not participate in agenda item:
1.	Prof Iolo Doull	Chairman	
2.	Prof Dyfrig Hughes	Health Economist	1,2,3,4,5,6
3.	Mr Farhan Mughal	ABPI (Wales)	
4.	Mrs Claire James	Lay Representative	
5.	Mrs Pam James	Lay Representative	
6.	Dr Jeremy Black	GP with prescribing lead role	
7.	Ms Rafia Jamil	Primary Care Pharmacist	
8.	Mr David Fox	Hospital Pharmacist	
9.	Mr James Leaves	Director of Finance	
10.	Mrs Susan Newport	Senior Nurse	1,2,3,4,5,6
11.	Ms Cathy Wynne	Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe	

Welsh Government:
Mr Andrew Evans

AWTTC staff:
Mrs Helen Adams, Senior Pharmacist
Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist
Dr Stephanie Francis, Senior Scientist
Mrs Sian Harbon, Scientist/Medical Writer
Mrs Rachel Jonas, Medical Writer
Mrs Ruth Lang, Senior Liaison Manager

Ms Laura Taylor, Administration Supervisor
Mr Anthony Williams, Interim Programme Director
Mrs Claire Thomas, Senior Pharmacist

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. New members Susan Newport and David Fox were welcomed to their first AWMSG meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Dr Sam Cox, Hospital Consultant
 Mr Dylan Jones, Hospital Pharmacist
 Dr Sian Lewis, Welsh Health Specialised Services Commission
 Mr Hywel Pullen, Director of Finance
 Mr Stuart Rees, Senior Hospital Pharmacist
 Dr Manjeet Singh, Hospital Consultant
 Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director
 Dr Alison Thomas, Clinical Pharmacologist
 Prof Stephen Monaghan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

3. **Declarations of interest:**

The Chair invited declarations of interest. There were none declared..

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 April 2023 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chair invited members who wished to input into discussions on the new medicines strategy to remain at the close of the public meeting.

The Chair confirmed receipt of Welsh Government ratification with regards to the AWMSG recommendation on Levodopa-carbidopa-entacapone (Lecigon) and the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group recommendation with regards to rituximab. He confirmed that the advice has been published on the website and disseminated to the service.

The Chair informed members that the updated AWMSG Constitution has been published on the website and he is awaiting nomination of a member and alternate from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists. He confirmed the additional member will increase the quorum from 9 to 10 voting members.

6. **Review of AWMSG medicines access processes**

Dr Stephanie Francis outlined the context of the paper explaining the intended process changes for accessing medicines. Members were informed the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has increased its capacity for technology appraisals and is providing a more streamlined and proportionate approach to its technology appraisal process. This has led to a significant decrease in the number of medicines requiring AWMSG health technology assessment (HTA). Dr Francis explained that while HTA is

the gold standard and the preferred route of access for a licenced medicine in Wales, there are occasions when HTA may not be appropriate.

Dr Francis confirmed the changes will be driven by the service/patient need and a significant change will be the introduction of inclusion criteria rather than exclusion criteria. A scrutiny panel will be established for deciding on the appropriate route of assessment for a medicine. Dr Francis confirmed the changes will follow an 'adapt and learn' approach and test cases will be undertaken. There will be closer collaboration with the medicines value unit.

The Chair opened discussion. Members welcomed the proposals. The lay member asked AWTTC to consider streamlining the processes to enable quicker access to medicines and Dr Francis confirmed that timely access will be a key driver for change. Other scenarios raised were appraisals terminated by NICE and any funding requirements associated with new processes.

Mr Evans highlighted the importance of having close links with the Medicines Value Unit. He suggested the approach for antimicrobials should be less specific given that the model proposed by NICE is currently unproven. Clarification was sought with regards to the definition of 'clinical need'. The ABPI representative confirmed support of the proposed changes and requested opportunity for ABPI Wales to be represented on the working group and scrutiny panel. This was agreed.

Members sought clarification of the anticipated timelines for implementation of the new processes. Dr Francis confirmed that AWTTC has been working through some scenarios and will continue to work on developing the criteria for consideration by the wider group. Dr Francis reassured members that this is a priority for AWTTC and, with the support of AWMSG, it is intended that AWTTC will convene a working group to take this work forward with immediate effect.

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

7. Revised AWMSG process for paediatric minor licence extensions

Prof Dyfrig Hughes and Mrs Susan Newport joined the meeting

Mrs Helen Adams outlined the proposed changes to AWMSG's process for advising on paediatric licence extensions where the medicine is already recommended for the same indication in adults. She explained that the change will facilitate quicker access to medicines and remove the routine assessment of paediatric licence extensions by AWMSG. Mrs Adams highlighted the expectation that Health Boards should add these medicines to their formularies. She confirmed that AWMSG will reserve the right to request a submission should there be a clinical need or if an issue is identified by the service. Mrs Adams confirmed that the update to the process is being made in the knowledge that all previous minor licence extensions have received positive recommendations and brings Wales in line with processes in England and Scotland. The change in process is

supported by the AWTTTC Industry Forum and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

The Chair opened discussion. Members expressed their support. The funding mandate was discussed and the process for monitoring new medicines.

The Chair confirmed AWMSG's support to the change in process for paediatric licence extensions.

8. National Prescribing Indicators 2022-2023. Analysis of prescribing data to December 2022 (for information)

Mrs Claire Thomas and Mr Richard Boldero provided an overview of the NPI data which was presented to AWMSG for information.

The inclusion of good practice spotlights was welcomed. A member drew attention to the significant increase in the reporting of adverse reactions from Betsi Cadwaladr HB and commented that the incentivising initiative has had a positive impact. The increase in reporting by members of the public was noted and Mrs Thomas confirmed that adverse reactions to the Covid-19 vaccine are now being included in the data and this might explain the increase. Mrs Thomas confirmed that the NPIs will be reviewed and updated in the autumn.

The Chairman thanked members for their comments.

9. All Wales Paediatric Asthma Management and Prescribing Guideline (for endorsement)

Dr Julian Forton joined the meeting

Mr Richard Boldero gave an introduction and asked members to consider the All Wales Paediatric Asthma Management and Prescribing Guidelines document for endorsement. He confirmed that members had been presented with the consultation comments and associated responses, and reminded the committee that consideration of mobile apps falls outside the remit of AWMSG. He handed over to Dr Forton who explained that as current national guidelines slightly conflict with one another the purpose of this guideline was to identify what was appropriate rather than do a systematic review and repeat the work of GINA/NICE/BTS. Dr Forton confirmed the aim of the guideline - to limit the choices available to prescribers, prevent variation and provide a national approach.

The Chair opened discussion and members asked how the guideline align with NICE. Dr Forton explained that GINA/NICE/BTS are in the process of reviewing guidelines and will be performing systematic reviews as part of that process. The purpose of this document is to reduce discrepancy in prescribing across Wales.

There was discussion over the inclusion of montekulast. The Chair invited Professor Hughes to comment and confirmed he had co-authored a paper on

this subject. Professor Hughes declared this interest. Dr Forton stated this paper was unpublished at the time of the guideline production and he considered it may be inappropriate to use over other published guidelines. It was noted that montelukast is not shown favourably as monotherapy and a suggestion made that the guideline should read more clearly. Dr Forton confirmed this amendment will be made to clarify that 'montekulast should not be used as a monotherapy'.

Dr Forton confirmed that patients aged 12 will be treated the same as adults. It was noted the term 'specialist care' is not defined. Members discussed the threshold for referral and concern was expressed over the potential increase in referrals to secondary care for 6-11-year olds, and those over 12 years of age, and whether a budget analysis had been undertaken. Dr Forton reassured members that this would not be the case. Clarification was sought on wording set out on page 9. Dr Forton agreed there was a discrepancy – an omission of a cohort of patients in-between the two specific thresholds identified. Dr Forton agreed to update the guideline accordingly.

Members asked if a more tailored national steroid emergency card would be more appropriate as it had not been intended for this purpose. Dr Forton confirmed there are no plans for an additional card.

Dr Forton was asked to provide a short summary of the aim of this guideline and he replied - to simplify all other guidance and reduce prescription discrepancy by giving the most simple and effective advice in one place. Dr Forton explained the guideline is a small part of a much broader piece of work and he alluded to initiatives that are outside the remit of AWMSG.

Members sought clarification of the expected timelines for implementation of the guideline. Dr Forton confirmed the current expectation is September with annual reviews anticipated to accommodate the changes in national guidelines.

The Chair thanked Dr Forton and members for the discussion and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the guideline.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 in Cardiff