

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/1025
Agenda Item No:	1 – Minutes of previous meeting
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All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

Minutes of the AWMSG meeting held at 09:30 am on Wednesday, 10th September 2025 at the All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY

Voting members present:

**Did not
participate in
agenda item:**

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Prof Iolo Doull | Chair |
| 2. | Prof Stephen Monaghan | Consultant in Public Health Medicine |
| 3. | Dr Rachel Gemine | NHS Wales Joint Commissioning
Committee |
| 4. | Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Health Economist |
| 5. | Mr Farhan Mughal | ABPI (Wales) |
| 6. | Mrs Pam James | Lay Representative |
| 7. | Ms Julie Wilson-Thomas | Lay Representative |
| 8. | Mr Dylan Jones | Community Pharmacist |
| 9. | Dr Richard Skone | Medical Director |
| 10. | Ms Lois Gwyn | Managed Sector Pharmacist – Primary
Care |
| 11. | Mr David Fox | Managed Sector Pharmacist –
Hospital Pharmacist |
| 12. | Mr Hywel Pullen | Director of Finance |
| 13. | Mrs Katherine White | Senior Nurse |
| 14. | Mr Karl Jackson | Other healthcare professions eligible
to prescribe not already represented |
| 15. | Dr Alison Thomas | Clinical Pharmacologist |
| 16. | Mrs Bethan Tranter | Director of Pharmacy |

Welsh Government:
Mr Andrew Evans

Medicines Values Unit:
Mr David Hutchings

AWTTC staff:

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Advanced Pharmacist
Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director
Dr Clare Elliott, Senior Scientist
Mrs Gail Woodland, Senior Pharmacist
Mrs Sian Harbon, Medical Writer
Mr Anthony Williams, Head of PAMS
Ms Laura Taylor, Administration Supervisor
Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU and Medicines Optimisation

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
CAS	All Wales Common Ailments Service
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
GPW	Genomic Partnership Wales
HTA	Health Technology Appraisal
ILAP	Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway
JCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
LOWMAG	Licensed One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPGG	National Pharmacogenomics Group
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
PAPIG	Patient & Public Involvement Group
PAMS	Patient Access to Medicines Service

1. **Welcome and introduction**

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members and observers, and explained the meeting protocol. The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. **Apologies:**

Dr Richard Brown, General Practitioner with an interest in therapeutics
Dr Owen Seddon, Hospital Consultant
Ms Rhiannon Walters-Davies, Medicines Values Unit

3. **Declarations of interest:**

The Chair invited declarations of interest. None were received.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th July were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AWMSG Annual Report has been published on the AWTTC website. English and Welsh versions are available. AWTTC will be sharing it with all committee members and stakeholders.

A new electronic declaration of interest form has been sent out to members for completion.

A response to the Cabinet Secretary's remit letter will be circulated shortly for their information.

AWTTC will be arranging a training Day for all AWMSG committee members and deputies (and sub-committee member and deputies) on 29th January 2026.

The Chair has been invited to give a presentation on the AWMSG Strategy for Wales 2024-2029 at a future meeting of the Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee. A date has yet to be confirmed.

6. **AWTTC Programme Director's report**

Andrew Champion presented the programme director's report.

The Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) work programme continues to make good progress across all areas of the programme. The first meeting of the programme board will take place on Thursday 18 September 2025 in Cardiff.

Terms of reference have been drafted to ensure a diverse membership and to describe the remit and responsibilities of the Board. Four Teams have been set up within AWTTC to lead on each of the programme project workstreams:

- Horizon scanning and financial forecasting
- The Medicines Ecosystem
- Implementation
- Unlocking data

At the August AWMSG Scrutiny Panel meeting, five medicines were presented to members. Three of these medicines were considered suitable for assessment, two as full submissions, and one as a limited submission. Another three medicines (all for off-label indications) will be considered for assessment at the next Scrutiny Panel meeting on 11 September.

The Commercial Arrangement Scheme Wales Group (CASWG) continues to meet regularly, and a training day will be held for members in October. The first quarterly progress report will be presented to the AWMSG Steering Committee following this training event.

Earlier this year AWTTC worked with key partners across the NHS including the Medicines Value Unit to develop a position statement on the use of Aflibercept 8mg to treat neovascular age-related macular degeneration and visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema. AWTTC is currently scoping requirements for a wet age-related macular degeneration pathway project. The aim of the project will be to map existing wet age-related macular degeneration services across health boards and standardise clinical protocols across sites in order to reduce variation.

The 2026 AWTCC Best Practice Day will be held at the All Nations Centre on 9 July 2026. Recordings from this year's Best Practice Day are now available on our website.

The next Learning at Lunch session for healthcare professionals will be held via Teams on Wednesday 1 October at 1pm. Topics include an update from Public Health Wales on the Greener Primary Care Scheme; Dr Helen Munro,

National Clinical Lead for the Women's Health Network, will be talking about topics related to the menopause; and Dr Tessa Lewis will provide an overview of recent therapeutic updates.

Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist and Dr Katt Chaplin, Senior Scientist have been invited to speak at the PHW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum, being held on 9 October 2025. This will be an opportunity to highlight the antimicrobial National Prescribing Indicators to a wider audience and showcase the work of AWTTTC.

AWTTTC continue to play an important role in the Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) programme, an end-to-end pathway that accelerates patient access to transformative new medicines. It is a partnership between the UK HTA agencies, the MHRA and the NHS. Last year the ILAP process, which had been running since 2021, was reviewed and updated. ILAP version 2.0 was launched in March 2025 and applications for new products to access the pathway was opened 31 March 2025. This first application window ran for three months and closed at the end of June. A number of applications have been received, and these are currently being assessed by the ILAP Delivery Group against the new eligibility and selection criteria. The outcome of the first round of applications will be announced in October 2025.

AWTTTC has been providing data analytical support to the Welsh Government Value and Sustainability Board on Medicines Management since 2023. Their remit was to identify short and long-term savings opportunities, focusing on reducing variation in practice and ensuring consistent implementation on an all-Wales basis. Their initial attention was on priority areas including biosimilars, low value prescribing and over the counter medicines. A list of ten recommendations was agreed, covering prescribing practice in both primary and secondary care. Since its inception significant in-year saving opportunities have been identified and this information is shared with health boards monthly. The Value and Sustainability Delivery Assurance Group has since been established to take over this work. The Group is now a sub-group of the Directors of Pharmacy Peer Group and looks to support the implementation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Review of Clinical Pharmacy Services whilst continuing to input into the Value & Sustainability Board in Welsh Government. AWTTTC continue to provide full analytical support and admin for this Group. Their first task has been to review the existing ten recommendations to assess whether some need refining or retiring; to identify further national medicines financial savings opportunities for 2025-26; and to consider opportunities to improve patient outcomes through Value-Based prescribing and medicines optimisation. Two separate Short Life Working Groups have been set up to review both primary and secondary care recommendations, and these groups will continue to provide expert advice and analysis going forward.

AWTTTC and Advanced Therapies Wales (ATW) have been working on a proposal to ensure system preparedness across the NHS for the deliverability of complex or disruptive therapies, such as Advances Medicinal products and other medicines that carry significant service and/or capacity challenges to the system. The National Pathway Mapping Group ('Coalition of the Willing') have outlined a proposal for a national process and

governance structure for supporting and managing the introduction of complex therapies, so that service planners and commissioners understand the capability of delivering these complex medicines. In August, the Group endorsed setting up a National Oversight Panel to coordinate and disseminate critical information to planners and delivery bodies to assist in supporting the timely introduction of complex therapies and approved the overall Programme Governance. A period of engagement is now planned.

AWMSG's Patient and Public Involvement Group (PAPIG) will be meeting on Friday 12 September between 10.00-12.00 via ZOOM. Presentations will include:

- Pharmacogenomics and precision medicines in Wales
- Prioritising the voice of people with lived experience into rare disease research in Wales
- Weight loss injections and pregnancy

The Summer edition of AWTTTC's newsletter was published on the website and disseminated at the end of August. This features news from April to June 2025.

Welsh Government's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Isabel Oliver, visited AWTTTC on Wednesday 30 July 2025 and has been invited to attend a future AWMSG meeting when her diary permits.

Andrew Champion has been invited by the ABPI to join as a panellist at their upcoming Spotlight on Value and Access event, being held on Tuesday 8 October 2025. The panel will be asked to explore what we can learn from the past to shape the future of access and adoption of medicines in the UK. The panel will include representatives from NHSE and NICE. The session will be moderated by Meindert Boysen and Paul Catchpole.

7. **One Wales – infliximab** for the treatment of immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) induced grade 3-4 myocarditis, where symptoms have not responded to first line immunosuppression with corticosteroids (OW 31) – for endorsement

The AWMSG Scrutiny Panel previously agreed that infliximab was suitable for assessment through the One Wales Assessment process for off-label medicines. It was subsequently considered by the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group (OWMAG) at their meeting on 11 August 2025. AWMSG members were sent the OWMAG recommendation and decision rationale in advance and invited to submit any questions regarding these to the assessment lead, Clare Elliott, prior to this meeting. No queries were received.

Dr Andy Champion, OWMAG interim Chair, gave a brief summary of the decision rationale and the OWMAG recommendation reached after consideration of the evidence presented in the Evidence Summary Report produced by AWTTTC, the views of the clinical expert who attended the OWMAG meeting and the views submitted by a patient organisation. OWMAG agreed there was some low-quality limited evidence to support the use of infliximab as a clinically effective option for this patient group and

acknowledged clinicians in Wales report positive outcomes for its use. They also noted there are no licensed alternative treatment options in second line therapy, and several international guidelines recommend the use of infliximab for this indication. OWMAG agreed that allowing routine access to infliximab will help standardise the treatment pathway in Wales and may enable earlier initiation of treatment resulting in improved patient outcomes. OWMAG considered the estimates of patient numbers and the budget impact to be reasonable and that the likely costs associated with using infliximab for this indication would be acceptable in considering the potential benefit gained from this intervention. OWMAG noted that the 12 month review will include data on the number of patients who have received this treatment in Wales and more evidence on whether this is an effective treatment for this patient population.

AWMSG members queried whether Blueteq could be used to provide patient numbers and outcome data for the use of infliximab in this indication and whether a formal process for the collection of patient outcomes could be developed for medicines recommended to treat all ICI-induced toxicities recommended through the One Wales Medicines process. It was also queried whether outcome data from patients treated in Wales could be published to add to the limited evidence base currently available for such treatments.

Action: Endorsed.

Action: AWTTTC to discuss with immunotherapy teams a formal process for collecting patient outcome data for ICI-induced toxicities. AWTTTC to liaise with clinical colleagues to discuss possible publication of outcome data for OWMAG approved medicines.

8. All Wales Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines (minor updates) – for information

Siân Harbon presented to members the recent updates to the Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines document, originally published in March 2022, latest update published in July 2025. The updates were on the following sections:

- Varicella zoster (Chicken pox)
- Herpes zoster (Shingles)
- Suspected meningococcal diseases
- Out of hospital sepsis

9. National Prescribing Indicators 2024-2025: Analysis of prescribing data to March 2025 – for information

Shaila Ahmed presented an analysis of prescribing data to March 2025 for information and highlighted key aspects of the report as outlined in Enclosure 4/AWMSG/0925.

10. NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report – May 2025 – for information

Shaila Ahmed presented the inhaler carbon footprint report to members for information and highlighted the key aspects of Enclosure 5/AWMSG/0925. Members welcomed the report and noted the positive changes.

11. All Wales Common Ailments Service Formulary – Monograph for back pain – for endorsement

Shaila Ahmed presented the monograph for back pain, which had been updated. Miss Ahmed introduced the monograph and explained the changes made to it and the process of updating it, which included consultation. The key changes include limiting the patient cohort to those aged 16 to less than 50 years with self-limiting back pain caused by muscle strain or minor injury, categorising red flag symptoms into red, amber, and green to reflect the urgency of referral, and emphasising non-pharmacological approaches before medicines. Paracetamol and ibuprofen 10% gel have been removed from the monograph, and a single list of risk factors for NSAID-induced GI adverse events has been introduced. AWMSG members endorsed the document.

Action: Endorsed.

12. Retirement of AWMSG endorsed medicines optimisation resources - update for members – for information

Siân Harbon presented members with the enclosed report on nine AWMSG medicines optimisation resources that have been considered for review or retirement following the March 2025 AWPAG meeting. At the April 2024 meeting of AWMSG, members agreed to a proposed process for consideration of older AWMSG-endorsed medicines optimisation resources for review and retirement. In addition to this work, all previous documents that were retired have had the retired watermark applied to the pages within the document.

13. Call for evidence: Private (non-NHS) prescribing

Members discuss the email that had been sent out detailing the Open call for evidence Private (non-NHS) prescribing. This call for evidence seeks views on how the current system operates in relation to patient access to medicines through private (non-NHS) routes.

In the UK, prescription medicines are held to the highest standards of regulation, prescribing and use. To ensure this continues, the prescribing environment must continuously support patients to safely access high-quality medicines in the UK through all legal routes.

This call for evidence is seeking feedback from individuals and organisations on how the current system operates in relation to patient access to medicines through private (non-NHS) routes. This includes:

- prescriptions written by prescribers registered in the European Economic Area (EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland whose prescriptions are dispensed in the UK
- private (non-NHS) prescriptions written by UK prescribers
- prescription-only medicines supplied through other legal mechanisms, such as patient group directions (PGDs) outside of the NHS ('private PGDs')

Members asked if there was a specified timeline on this call for evidence and what type of evidence would need to be submitted. This is currently unclear. Welsh Government said they would try to feedback. Members were advised that this evidence could come in the format of many things including how

private prescribing is helping or hindering the NHS in Wales.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked AWMSG members and confirmed the date of the next meeting on, Tuesday, 7th October 2025 at the All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY