

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0425
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 Tuesday, 11th March 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. | Mrs Eleri Schiavone | Joint Commissioning Committee |
| 3. | Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Health Economist |
| 4. | Ms Kate Parrish | ABPI (Wales) |
| 5. | Mrs Pam James | Lay Representative |
| 6. | Julie Wilson-Thomas | Lay Representative |
| 7. | Miss Rafia Jamil | Managed Sector Pharmacist –
Primary Care |
| 8. | Mr David Fox | Managed Sector Pharmacist –
Hospital Pharmacist |
| 9. | Mrs Katherine White | Senior Nurse |
| 10. | Dr Alison Thomas | Clinical Pharmacologist |
| 11. | Dr Owen Seddon | Hospital Consultant |
| 12. | Dr Richard Brown | GP |

Welsh Government:

Andrew Evans

Medicines Values Unit:

Mr Mark Francis

AWTTC staff:

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director

Dr Katherine Chaplin, Senior Scientist

Dr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist

Mrs Rachel Jonas, Medical Writer

Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU and Medicines Optimisation

List of abbreviations:

AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CASWG	Commercial Arrangement Scheme Wales Group
JCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
OME	Oral Morphine Equivalence
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
PAPIG	Patient & Public Involvement Group
PAMS	Patient Access to Medicines Service
SPIRA	Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis
4C	Group of antimicrobials

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:

Mr James Leaves, Director of Finance

Prof Stephen Monaghan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

Mr Hywel Pullen, Director of Finance

Mr Jonathan Simms, Director of Pharmacy

Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director

Mr Jonathan Simms, Chief 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 12 Feb 2025 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Claire James has stepped down as lay member having served on the group for a full term of office. He announced this will be the last meeting with Eleri Schiavone as NWJCC representative. Both members were thanked for their contributions to the group. It was confirmed that Julie Wilson-Thomas is deputising as the lay member. The Chair welcomed Dr Owen Seddon and Dr Richard Brown to their first AWMSG meeting, having recently been appointed as the hospital consultant and GP representative respectively.

The Chair informed members that the Commercial Arrangement Scheme Wales Group (CASWG) had replaced the Patient Access Scheme Wales Group and a training day for new members is scheduled for tomorrow. The terms of reference will be discussed and agreed by members before being taken to the AWMSG Steering Committee on 25th March, and to AWMSG in April.

The Chair informed members that he was joined by AWTTTC representatives at the Rare Disease Day Reception at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay, where they promoted the Yellow Card Scheme and the Your Medicines Your Health Campaign.

A reminder was given to members about the upcoming Patient and Public Involvement Group, which will be taking place on Tuesday, 18th March and a Learning at Lunch rapid update on Wednesday 7th May 2025.

The Chair highlighted that AWTTTC, in collaboration with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, Asthma and Lung UK, and Cardiff Metropolitan University, had previously created a patient information film promoting the importance of respiratory reviews and appropriate inhaler disposal. The film has been widely shared across NHS Wales and may also be adopted by Northern Ireland's Department of Health to encourage annual respiratory reviews and inhaler disposal.

6. **National Prescribing Indicators 2024–2025: Analysis of prescribing data to September 2024** (for information)

Shaila Ahmed provided an overview of the NPI data which was presented to AWMSG for information. Members were informed that AWTTTC had launched a webpage showcasing good practice spotlights from the quarterly reports, which would be updated regularly to highlight new initiatives by health boards.

The discussion focused on the use of anticoagulants as part of the atrial fibrillation indicator, where a decline in the percentage of patients prescribed an anticoagulant compared to the previous quarter was noted. It was recommended that trends in prescribing be closely monitored and communicated to health boards, especially in cases of consecutive quarterly decreases against the target, which may require further investigation by health boards.

7. Impact of MHRA safety alert on fluoroquinolone and 4C prescribing (for information)

Katherine Chaplin gave an overview of the impact of the MHRA Safety Alert on fluoroquinolones, and provided a summary of trends in 4C and fluoroquinolone prescribing.

The group discussed the feasibility of separating fluoroquinolone prescribing from co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins, and clindamycin and agreed that it would be beneficial to present these data as an appendix to the NPI report. The group acknowledged that the aim is to reduce inappropriate prescribing, however it is not possible from the data in the report to identify appropriate or inappropriate prescribing.

8. National Prescribing Indicators 2024–2025: A focus on total opioid burden (for information)

Katherine Chaplin gave an overview of the additions to the report, with the inclusion of health board waiting times and demographics. The trends presented in the datasets were discussed in detail. It was requested that the English average in Figure 1 be checked. The Group agreed that they had a role in drawing health boards attention to significant trends in the data to ensure unwarranted variation was investigated.

9. NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report - data to November 2024 (for information)

Thomas Curran provided an update on the latest data presented in the report, including the overall indicative carbon footprint associated with inhaler prescribing. It was noted that while the overall trend in indicative carbon footprint continues to decrease towards the target, there is a slight plateau in the data.

10. Guidance for clinicians on prescribing antidepressants in the perinatal period and accompanying poster for patients (for acknowledgement)

Thomas Curran provided a summary of the guideline, including some background on the group that had developed the guidance and the process the guidance had been through prior to its publication on the NHS Executive website.

Members agreed to Acknowledge the guidance.

It was queried whether any mental health guidelines specifically focused on paternal care were in development; however, it was noted that this was outside the scope of what was being considered for acknowledgement, and members were not aware of any such guidelines in development.

11. **All Wales guidance on flushing intravenous administration lines in adults** (for acknowledgement)

Lynette James, All Wales Consultant Pharmacist, joined the meeting

Thomas Curran provided an update based on comments from the February meeting of AWMSG when the guidance was first presented. It was confirmed that the enclosure was being reconsidered following a minor change to wording within the guidance (changing recommendation terminology from 'must' to 'should') and with additional information provided regarding the makeup of the development group and the processes the guidance had undergone during development.

Lynette James provided a summary of what prompted the need for the guidance to be produced, and further history on how the guidance had been developed based on the National Intravenous Access Society guidance. Lynette James confirmed the guidance had already been considered and supported by the All Wales Directors of Pharmacy.

It was confirmed that the responsibility for the guidelines will rest with the Wales Medicines Safety Network, with responsibility for hosting resting with the Welsh Medicines Advice Service. It was agreed to include a two-year review date within the guidance to ensure the advice remains aligned with current practice.

Members agreed to Acknowledge the guidance, subject to inclusion of a date of review.

12. **Any other business**

The Chair thanked AWMSG members and confirmed the date of the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 9th April 2025

Venue: All Nations Centre, Cardiff