

Enclosure No:	<b>1/AWMSG/0325</b>
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 09:30am on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the All Nations Centre,  
Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY**

**Voting members present:**

**Did not  
participate  
in agenda  
item:**

- |            |                            |   |               |
|------------|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>Prof Iolo Doull</b>     | <b>Chair</b>  |               |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Mrs Eleri Schiavone</b> | <b>NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee</b>            |               |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>Prof Dyfrig Hughes</b>  | <b>Health Economist</b>                                   | <b>1 - 12</b> |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>Mr Farhan Mughal</b>    | <b>ABPI (Wales)</b>                                       |               |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>Mrs Claire James</b>    | <b>Lay Representative</b>                                 |               |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>Mrs Pam James</b>       | <b>Lay Representative</b>                                 |               |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>Mr Dylan Jones</b>      | <b>Community Pharmacist</b>                               |               |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>Mr Hywel Pullen</b>     | <b>Director of Finance</b>                                |               |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Mr David Fox</b>        | <b>Senior Hospital Pharmacist</b>                         |               |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Mrs Katherine White</b> | <b>Senior Nurse</b>                                       |               |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Mrs Cathy Wynne</b>     | <b>Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe</b> |               |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Dr Alison Thomas</b>    | <b>Clinical Pharmacologist</b>                            |               |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Mrs Bethan Tranter</b>  | <b>Chief Pharmacist</b>                                   |               |

**Welsh Government:**  
Andrew Evans

**Medicines Values Unit:**  
Mr Mark Francis

**AWTTC staff:**

Mrs Helen Adams, Senior Pharmacist  
Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist  
Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director  
Mr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist  
Mrs Sian Harbon, Medical Writer  
Dr Carolyn Hughes, Medical Writer  
Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU and Medicines Optimisation  
Mr Anthony Williams, Head of Patient Access to Medicines  
Mrs Gail Woodland, Senior Pharmacist

**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
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators

**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:**

Ms Lois Gwyn, Senior Primary Care Pharmacist  
Ms Rafia Jamil, Senior Primary Care Pharmacist  
Prof Stephen Monaghan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine  
Dr Manjeet Singh, Hospital Consultant  
Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director

**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 3 December 2024 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
The Chair detailed that the most recent learning at lunch event was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with 166 attendees. This event aligns to AWMSG's mission to achieve better health outcomes by the development and appropriate use of medicines optimisation resources.

The first meeting of the Your Medicines, Your Health Strategic Board has been held. Members will be updated as plans for national roll-out develop further.

AWMSG's Patient and Public Involvement Group will be meeting on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March. The Chair welcomed attendance at the meeting.

AWMSG Scrutiny panel was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Decisions were made on four medicines, three will be progressed and assessed and recommendations will be brought to AWMSG for consideration and approval.

One Wales Medicines Assessment Group met virtually in December 2024 to review One Wales advice for vonicog alfa (Veyvondi<sup>®</sup>) for the on-demand treatment of non-surgical and surgical (elective and emergency) bleeding episodes in children aged up to 17 years with von Willebrand disease. The Chair asked AWMSG members to note the decision of OWMAG is to continue to support use, with the next review to take place after two years.

The Chair noted there are three consultations on the AWTTTC website at the moment. The All Wales Common Ailments Service Formulary - Monograph for allergic rhinitis. Policy for the sustainable procurement, management, administration and disposal of medical gases within the hospital setting to achieve decarbonisation. Urgent Requests for Repeat Medication – Guidance for community pharmacy, NHS 111 and out-of-hours primary care services. The Chair encourage members to comment on them during consultation rather than when they were brought to AWMSG meetings.

The Chair advised that they are still accepting nominations for various committee members.

The Chair announced that the MHRA launched the new UK-wide Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. AWTTTC is one of the collaborating partners on this pathway.

The Chair informed members he had received a letter from Jeremy Miles, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, informing us that he was unable to ratify AWMSG's Recommendation for emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (Descovy<sup>®</sup>) or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in at-risk men who have sex with men. The Chair reminded members that the case for the cost-effectiveness of Descovy<sup>®</sup> was not proven. As explained in the letter, the recommendation and Assessment Report were considered alongside the commitments of Welsh Government's HIV Action Plan for Wales. Consideration was also given to access to Descovy<sup>®</sup> in other parts of the UK, and the view of clinicians that Descovy<sup>®</sup> is an important treatment option for men for whom other forms of PrEP are contraindicated. As Descovy<sup>®</sup> is already being made available in some health boards through the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) route there is a potential risk of inequity in access. AWMSG's recommendation on this occasion will not be ratified and routine use of Descovy<sup>®</sup> within NHS Wales will be limited to situations in which generic PrEP is contraindicated.

## **6. One Wales Review Process Update** (for endorsement)

Gail Woodland presented members with the proposed new process. The current process has decisions reviewed after 12 months, then again after 1, 2 or 3 years by the One Wales Medicines Assessment Group (OWMAG). The new proposal would be for some decisions to be moved to a static list, based on selected criteria after a predefined review period. These medicines would

undergo an internal review, rather than going to the OWMAG. This would significantly reduce the workload burden for the review process. There was discussion around whether there would be any impact on patients; it was discussed there would not as the decisions would still stand for those moved on to the static list. There was also discussion around where AWMSG would have sight of this review process. It was agreed that the work plan spreadsheet could be brought to AWMSG for annual review of the decisions made on the static list.

**Action: Endorsed**

**7. Draft minutes from AWPAG held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

(for information)

Claire Thomas provided members with an overview of the discussions held at the December meeting of AWPAG, and noted that the 2025 Best Practice Day would be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with Yellow Card Centre Wales, with a focus on medicines safety.

**8. Managing medicines shortages in Wales – Information for patients** (for endorsement)

Richard Boldero gave an overview of the requirement for a patient information leaflet on medicines shortages. There was some discussion around whether the group needed to use EIDO approved patient information leaflets going forward. It was agreed that this would be looked into but the general consensus was that this was not a requirement as these were focused on attaining informed consent which was not the purpose of this specific patient information leaflet. One member commented on welcoming the addition of the easy-read leaflet and the pragmatic approach taken in considering the consultation comments.

**Action: Endorsed**

**9. All Wales Guidance on Flushing Intravenous Administration Lines in Adults** (for acknowledgement)

Thomas Curran presented the document for acknowledgement. Members discussed the use of the word 'must' within the guideline, and how this would be better worded as 'should'. There was also discussion around the process the guideline had gone through prior to coming to AWMSG for acknowledgement and the appropriateness of the document for AWMSG consideration as it was perhaps focused on a nursing task rather than a specific medicine or medicines. Members agreed that the document would not be acknowledged at this meeting, with feedback being shared with the author.

**Action: AWTTTC to share feedback with the author.**

**10. All Wales Common Ailments Service formulary – minor updates** (for information)

Thomas Curran detailed the minor update to the nappy rash monograph following the withdrawal of metanium as a product, and its replacement with soft white paraffin.

**11. Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines – minor updates** (for information)

Thomas Curran detailed the minor update to the oral candidiasis section to align with the current NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary (CKS). The update also accounts for a discrepancy in the duration of treatment noted in the British National Formulary (BNF) versus what is noted in the current NICE CKS; in this case the duration noted in the BNF has been adopted in the antimicrobial guidelines. The author has taken this to NICE and they are amending the clinical knowledge summary to correct this discrepancy.

**12. Review and retirement of AWMSG-endorsed medicines optimisation documents: Update for members** (for information)

Thomas Curran updated members on the process that had been employed to consider AWMSG-resources for retirement and review, which had been agreed in April 2024. Members were informed that fourteen of the documents listed have been retired, and one (Monitored dosage systems) has been flagged for review. There was discussion as to why the documents are still available online and whether this posed a risk if they had been retired for safety reasons. It was noted that this was the agreed process that the resource should remain available, but that it should clearly be marked as retired. It was also noted that none of the retirements actioned so far were due to safety concerns, but if they were that this would be clearly noted on the website and document. There was further discussion and it was agreed that a 'Retired' watermark should be added to all document pages.

**Action: Add watermarks for retired documents**

**13. Variation in prescribing** (for information)

Richard Boldero gave a presentation summarising the work, stating that this has been an accumulation of work over a number of years. The general purpose being to try and investigate variation seen in various reported datasets, particularly those of the national prescribing indicators.

There was discussion around the methodology supporting the analyses. Mr Boldero was asked how this work would be taken forward. Mr Boldero summarised the plan for taking to nominated individuals within health boards to give a more detailed presentation of the work before this is rolled out further. The intention is that the SPIRA platform will enable this functionality for all relevant datasets. One member enquired how this work helps health care professionals to help patients. It was agreed that in having this functionality, it helps health boards to identify outliers in prescribing and then investigate this variation further, potentially enabling the opportunity to challenge any possible inequality.

Andrew Evans added a declaration of interest as a co-author on this paper for this agenda item during the meeting.

Action: AWTTTC to progress with implementation plan

**14. Access to EYLEA® (afibercept) 114.3 mg/ml (8 mg) pre-filled syringe and vial**

Helen Adams detailed that AWTTTC had worked with the medicines value unit and Bayer regarding access to this medicine. The 8mg EYLEA preparation fell outside of the NICE work programme as they had already appraised the 2mg EYLEA preparation. It was noted by members that work around the pathway would be beneficial. A reduced cost had been agreed for the new preparation in the short term however members were aware of the changing landscape with biosimilars on the market. It was discussed that if Blueteq was implemented it would allow a better picture of usage in Wales.

Action: Endorsed

**15. Medicine shortages: standard wording for medicines shortages letters** (for endorsement)

Richard Boldero advised that a statement had been drafted to be added to medicines shortages letters issued in Wales to provide clarity where the suggested alternative medicines to those subjected to the shortage have not been approved for use by either AWMSG or NICE. No further comments.

Action: Endorsed

**16. Any other business**

There was none.

The Chair thanked AWMSG members and confirmed the date of the next meeting on, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at The All Nations Centre, Cardiff.