

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0625
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 10:00 am on Tuesday, 20th May 2025 at Cardiff Metropolitan
University, Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

Voting members present:

**Did not
participate
in agenda
item:**

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Prof Iolo Doull | Chair |
| 2. | Prof Stephen Monaghan | Consultant in Public Health Medicine |
| 3. | Mrs Angharad Lawson | Joint Commissioning Committee |
| 4. | Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Health Economist |
| 5. | Mrs Pam James | Lay Representative |
| 6. | Ms Julie Wilson-Thomas | Lay Representative |
| 7. | Dr Richard Brown | General Practitioner |
| 8. | Ms Rafia Jamil | Managed Sector Pharmacist –
Primary Care |
| 9. | Mr David Fox | Managed Sector Pharmacist –
Hospital Pharmacist |
| 10. | Mr James Leaves | Director of Finance |
| 11. | Mrs Katherine White | Senior Nurse |
| 12. | Mrs Cathy Wynne | Other healthcare professions eligible
to prescribe not already represented |
| 13. | Dr Alison Thomas | Clinical Pharmacologist |
| 14. | Dr Owen Seddon | Hospital Consultant |
| 15. | Mr Jonathan Simms | Director of Pharmacy |

Welsh Government:

Andrew Evans

Medicines Values Unit:

Mr Guy Thompson

AWTTC staff:

Mrs Helen Adams, Senior Pharmacist

Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director

Mrs Anne Coles, Administration Manager

Prof James Coulson, LOWMAG Chairman

Mrs Lorraine Coyle, Administration Manager

Dr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist

Dr Clare Elliott, Senior Scientist

Mr David Haines, Medical Writer

Mrs Karen Jones, Senior Pharmacist

Miss Laura Phillips, Administration Manager

Miss Sara Pickett, Principal Health Economist

Ms Sabrina Rind, Senior Pharmacist

Ms Rosie Spears, Senior Scientist

Mr Anthony Williams, Head of PAMS

Mrs Gail Woodland, Senior Pharmacist

Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU and Medicines Optimisation

Dr Paul Deslandes, Senior Pharmacist

List of abbreviations:

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
ADHD	Attention-deficit/hyperactivity Disorder
ADT	Androgen Deprivation Therapy
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
JCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
LOWMAG	Licensed One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
mHSPC	Metastatic Hormone Sensitive Prostate Cancer
NHS	National Health Service
NMG	New Medicines Group
PAMS	Patient Access to Medicines Service
PAR	Preliminary Appraisal Recommendation
PAS	Patient Access Scheme

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 Rachel Gemine, NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee

Dr Jim Mcguigan, Medical Director

Mr Hywel Pullen, Director of Finance

Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director

Mr Tommy Price, ABPI
Mr Dylan Jones, Community Pharmacist

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chair invited declarations of interest. None were declared.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th April were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's report (verbal update)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr Guy Thompson and Dr Angharad Lawson, who are deputising during this meeting, were introduced. Members were informed of a letter to AWMSG from cabinet secretary Jeremy Miles, and all were invited to a closed session after the meeting to discuss AWMSG's response.

The Chair informed members of results of a follow-up study on the use of dostarlimab in rectal cancer, which were very positive. Dostarlimab for this indication is associated with a One Wales decision, and the Chair commended the One Wales team and process for making this medicine available in Wales.

Members were informed about the recent Learning at Lunch session, and the upcoming AWTTTC Best Practice Day, which is themed this year on medicines safety. The Chair also gave details of medicines optimisation documents currently out for consultation, and of AWMSG work related to decarbonisation, which has recently been highlighted in the Pharmaceutical Journal.

Lastly, the Chair confirmed the National Pharmacogenomics Group will become an official AWMSG sub-committee. The draft constitution of this group is hoped to be presented at the next AWMSG meeting. The Chair ended the report.

6. Policy for the sustainable procurement, management, administration, and disposal of medical gases within the hospital setting to achieve decarbonisation

(for endorsement)

Richard Boldero, Craig Holley and Fiona Brennan presented members with an overview of the policy, including aims, background and clinical context. This policy focusses on reducing usage of the high global warming potential medical gases with a particular focus on nitrous oxide. Members were asked to support the endorsement of the policy.

Members discussed the rationale behind reducing the use of nitrous oxide. The high rate of leakage associated with its use was explained. Members were assured that other options were available, which are associated with less waste. There was some discussion around how this policy would be implemented, how progress would be monitored, and the plans for data gathering. Members suggested that clearly communicating the aims of the policy and expectations of Health Boards for implementation would be important for this work.

Members agreed the policy should be endorsed.

7. **Appraisal 1 – Ziconotide - Full re-submission**

for the treatment of severe, chronic pain in adults who require intrathecal analgesia.

Before this appraisal was discussed, the Chair asked members of the public to leave the meeting for the duration of the agenda item as confidential information was to be discussed. After this, quoracy was confirmed and members were once again asked to declare any conflicts of interest. None were declared.

The Chair introduced delegates of the company. Sabrina Rind then presented an overview of the appraisal. This was a resubmission by the company due to changes in clinical practice which have been reflected in national guidelines. Ziconotide is associated with a PAS. Members were informed that recommendations for clinical effectiveness at the lower doses with a slower titration are based mainly on case reports and consensus from clinical experts. There was some discussion during the appraisal about the most appropriate comparator (morphine or best supportive care). It was confirmed to members that ziconotide meets the severity modifier criteria for appraisal. Professor James Coulson then presented members with an explanation of the NMGs decision, which was to not recommend due to insufficient cost-effectiveness data, and the case for clinical effectiveness being unproven. It was acknowledged that the company have included data in their response to the preliminary appraisal recommendation (PAR) to address concerns raised by NMG, and that the remit of NMG differs from AWMSG.

The company delegates thanked members for the chance to present their case and then outlined how they expect ziconotide to be used in practice. The company stressed that the budget impact is likely to be minimal, and discussed the benefits a positive recommendation would bring to patients. The Chair opened the floor for members questions. Members discussed the NMG recommendation and acknowledged the company response to this. There was some discussion around whether a positive AWMSG recommendation would lead to ziconotide superseding morphine on a wider scale than anticipated, and how this would affect the budget impact. The company stated they expect any change would happen slowly, and with minimal budget impact.

Dyfrig Hughes presented an analysis of the cost effectiveness data, including any assumptions and limitations of the model. The comparison with best supportive care rather than morphine predicted a lower ICER accompanied with larger QALY gains. This comparison had not been considered by NMG. Members agreed ziconotide provides societal and patient benefits in comparison.

Lay members were asked to present the patient perspective, however no submissions from patient groups had been made. Comments from the lay member emphasised the importance of making medicines available if it can be shown to improve quality of life and outcomes and noted the severe impact pain had on patients quality of life and ability to be in employment and contribute to society.

There was discussion around the low patient numbers and how this makes it difficult to accurately measure outcomes. The company responded by stating that as more patients have access, the outcome data will be available.

The company confirmed to the Chair that they are happy with the process and had no further comments. The Chair invited them to leave the meeting

whilst the votes were counted.

Members voted to recommend ziconotide for use. The Chair informed the company of the outcome and thanked them for their time.

8. Urgent Requests for Repeat Medication – Guidance for community pharmacy, NHS 111, and out-of-hours primary care services (for endorsement)

Dr Lynette James and Dr Paul Deslandes presented the document to members and provided the background as to why it had been developed. There was some discussion around how community pharmacies would be affected by the recommendations, and on how to deal with requests for specialist medicines such as antiretrovirals. It was agreed that wording within the document would be amended to note that in certain circumstances, advice from the specialist should be sought.

Members also discussed repeated requests for emergency medicines, and it was clarified how users of the guidance should deal with these situations. It was mentioned that information on the consequences of missed doses was not always easily available.

Members agreed the document should be endorsed.

9. All Wales Common Ailments Service formulary

(minor updates for information)

Dr Thomas Curran provided an update for information on minor changes to the conjunctivitis monograph.

10. Primary care antimicrobial guidelines

(for information)

Dr Thomas Curran provided an update for information on minor changes to three monographs within the guidelines (acute rhinosinusitis, lower urinary tract infections in adults, and threadworm).

11. All Wales policy for medicines administration, recording, review, storage, and disposal (MARRS)

(minor updates for information)

Dr Thomas Curran provided an update for information on minor changes to the MARRS document.

12. AWPAG minutes – March meeting (for information)

Claire Thomas presented minutes from the March AWPAG meeting, informing members of documents considered and how work is progressing on various projects.

13. Appraisal 2 - Guanfacine (Intuniv) - Limited submission

for treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents 6 to 17 years old

The AWMSG Scrutiny Panel decided this medicine was suitable for a limited assessment through the revised licensed medicines assessment process.

The medicine was assessed by LOWMAG, and AWMSG members were

asked to consider the recommendations and send any queries to AWTTTC prior to this meeting. No queries were received. James Coulson provided an overview of the LOWMAG recommendation and rationale. There was some discussion around whether this medicine would be suitable for shared care. AWMSG members agreed to endorse the recommendation.

14. Appraisal 3 - Abiraterone - Limited submission

for treatment of newly diagnosed high risk mHSPC in adult men in combination with ADT

The Chair (Iolo Doull) declared a conflict of interest for this agenda item and confirmed he would not participate in any discussion.

The AWMSG Scrutiny Panel decided this medicine was suitable for a limited assessment through the revised licensed medicines assessment process.

The medicine was assessed by LOWMAG, and AWMSG members were asked to consider the recommendations and send any queries to AWTTTC prior to this meeting. No queries were received. James Coulson provided an overview of the LOWMAG recommendation and rationale. AWMSG members agreed to endorse the recommendation.

15. Any other business

Members were asked for any other business, none was raised.