

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0225
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
09:30am on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 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. | Mrs Eleri Schiavone | NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee |
| 4. | Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Health Economist |
| 5. | Mr Tommy Price | ABPI (Wales) |
| 6. | Mrs Pam James | Lay Representative |
| 7. | Dr Richard Skone | Medical Director |
| 8. | Ms Rafia Jamil | Senior Primary Care Pharmacist |
| 9. | Mr Hywel Pullen | Director of Finance |
| 10. | Mr Stuart Rees | Senior Hospital Pharmacist |
| 11. | Mrs Susan Newport | Senior Nurse |
| 12. | Mrs Cathy Wynne | Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe |
| 13. | Dr Alison Thomas | Clinical Pharmacologist |
| 14. | Mrs Bethan Tranter | Chief Pharmacist |

Welsh Government:

Mr Andrew Evans

Medicines Values Unit:

Mr Mark Francis

AWTTC staff:

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Advanced Pharmacist

Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director

Dr Katherine Chaplin, Senior Scientist

Dr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist

Mr David Haines, Medical Writer

Mr Anthony Williams, Head of PAMS

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
HTA	Health Technology Appraisal
ILAP	Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway
MHRA	Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Authority
NHS	National Health Service
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
OME	Oral Morphine Equivalence
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 Dylan Jones, Community Pharmacist

Dr Manjeet Singh, Hospital Consultant

Mrs Claire James, Lay Member

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chair invited declarations of interest. None were given.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 November 2024 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's report (verbal update)

The Chair presented his report and confirmed that AWMSG's Patient and Public Interest Group, held Friday 29 November, had been well attended.

The Chair informed members that the theme of the meeting was Medicines

Adherence and included presentations on the future plans for the “Your Medicines Your Health” initiative. Dr Sarah Brown from Cardiff Metropolitan University gave an insight into why people behave the way that they do and how an understanding of health psychology can help support adherence. Bethan Davis from Cardiff and Vale UHB talked about the KidsMedz Cymru, a programme that teaches children how to safely swallow pills. The Chair thanked AWTTTC staff for hosting this event.

The Chair announced that a Call for Members had been sent out to the service inviting nominations for committee membership.

The Chair confirmed that an introductory meeting of AWMSG’s Scrutiny Panel will be held on Tuesday 10th December, with the formal launch of AWMSG medicines access processes following in the New Year.

Members were reminded there is no meeting in January and a training day will be held later in the year.

6. National Prescribing Indicators 2024-2025: Analysis of Prescribing Data to June 2024

Ms Shaila Ahmed presented members with an update on the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) report to June 2024 for information. Members were informed that AWTTTC has established a task force focused on developing strategies to reduce the prescribing of gabapentin and pregabalin. Members were informed that yellow card data remains pending and the report will be updated as soon as the data becomes available. Mr Richard Boldero presented an update on the prescribing efficiencies work, focussing on biosimilars and the low value for prescribing basket. It was confirmed that the next NPI quarterly report (for Q2 2024) will be made available in January 2024.

The Chair invited comments. There was brief discussion on anticoagulants, 4C antimicrobials and biosimilars. A question was raised about whether removing fluoroquinolones from the 4C antimicrobials basket would still demonstrate a trend of reduced 4C prescribing across health boards. AWTTTC agreed to explore this further.

Dr Katherine Chaplin referred members to Appendix A and explained the opioid burden data across Wales, and where targets are being achieved. Members were briefed on the introduction of a new measure for the opioid burden indicator, Oral Morphine Equivalence (OME). The rationale behind the measure was explained. Members expressed support for the new measure and provided ideas and insights on how to best use the data.

7. NHS Wales inhaler carbon footprint report – August 2024

Mr Richard Boldero provided an update on the inhaler carbon footprint report. He explained that an inhaler dashboard developed by AWTTTC monitors the NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan target of increasing the use of low global warming potential inhalers to 80% of the total inhalers issued by 2025. The report is published on AWTTTC’s Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA), an online interactive programme for comparative analysis of prescribing data.

8. Common Ailments Service

Dr Thomas Curran informed members of minor updates to the constipation and dry skin monographs of the All Wales Common Ailments Service (CAS) formulary, that were published in November 2024.

9. Prescribing Dilemmas

Dr Thomas Curran informed members of minor updates to the prescribing dilemmas document that were published in November 2024. Members suggested there may be a need for additional detail on sodium valproate prescribing, particularly prescribing in men. It was highlighted that the document now links to the sodium valproate hub on the AWTTTC website, where more information is available.

10. AWTTTC Engagement Activity Update

Dr Andrew Champion presented members with an overview of the updated Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP) and explained how AWTTTC is involved in this collaborative work. He explained that ILAP is a unique initiative which aims to accelerate the time to patient care for transformative medicines and medicine-device combinations, facilitating patient access by providing a single integrated platform for sustained collaborative working between the developer, the Regulator (MHRA), the UK Health Technology Assessment (HTA) bodies and the National Health Service (NHS). The refreshed ILAP will continue to target timely patient benefit, take forward lessons learnt from ILAP to date and respond to the needs of our fast-paced life sciences sector by providing a more compelling offer of support to the medicine developer. This will include more focused entry criteria and an extension of the partnership to directly involve the NHS. Members welcomed AWTTTC's involvement in this work.

11. Any other business

There was no other business and the Chair closed the meeting.

The Chair thanked AWMSG members and confirmed the date of the next meeting on Wednesday 12th February at the All Nations Centre, Cardiff.

The Chair thanked Mr Trevor Brooking for his support to AWMSG over the last eighteen years. He wished Mr Brooking a long, healthy and happy retirement. There was a round of applause and members gave Mr Brooking their best wishes.