

Enclosure No:	<b>1/AWMSG/1224</b>
Agenda Item No:	<b>1 – Minutes of previous meeting</b>
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## **All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)**

**Draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held at 09:30am on  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Cardiff Metropolitan University,  
Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

### **Voting members present:**

**Did not participate  
in agenda item:**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Prof Iolo Doull</b>        | <b>Chair</b>                                       |
| <b>2. Prof Stephen Monaghan</b>  | <b>Consultant in Public Health Medicine</b>        |
| <b>3. Mrs Eleri Schiavone</b>    | <b>NHS Wales Joint Commissioning<br/>Committee</b> |
| <b>4. Dr Pippa Anderson</b>      | <b>Health Economist</b>                            |
| <b>5. Mr Farhan Mughal</b>       | <b>ABPI (Wales)</b>                                |
| <b>6. Ms Julie Wilson Thomas</b> | <b>Lay Representative</b>                          |
| <b>7. Mrs Pam James</b>          | <b>Lay Representative</b>                          |
| <b>8. Ms Lois Gwyn</b>           | <b>Senior Primary Care Pharmacist</b>              |
| <b>9. Mr Hywel Pullen</b>        | <b>Director of Finance</b>                         |
| <b>10. Mr David Fox</b>          | <b>Senior Hospital Pharmacist</b>                  |
| <b>11. Mrs Katherine White</b>   | <b>Senior Nurse</b>                                |
| <b>12. Dr Manjeet Singh</b>      | <b>Clinical Pharmacologist</b>                     |
| <b>13. Mr Jonathan Simms</b>     | <b>Chief Pharmacist</b>                            |

**Welsh Government:**

Andrew Evans

**Medicines Values Unit:**

Mr Mark Francis

**AWTTC staff:**

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Katherine Chaplin, Senior Scientist

Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist  
Dr Laurence Gray, AWPAG Chairman  
Ms Sian Harbon, Medical Writer  
Ms Karen Jones, Senior Pharmacist  
Mr Anthony Williams, Head of PAMS

**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
LOWMAG	Licensed 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 the meeting is quorate.

**2. Apologies:**

Prof Dyfrig Hughes, Health Economist  
Mr Karl Jackson, Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe  
Mrs Claire James, Lay Representative  
Miss Rafia Jamil, Senior Primary Care Pharmacist  
Mr Dylan Jones, Community Pharmacist  
Dr Richard Skone, Medical Director  
Dr Alison Thomas, Clinical Pharmacologist

**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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

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

The Chair announced that AWTTC will be seeking nominations for vacant positions on AWMSG, AWPAG and LOWMAG. A Call for Members will be sent out to the service and members were asked to share this with their colleagues.

The Chair confirmed receipt of a nomination from the Directors of Pharmacy Peer Group and announced that Bethan Tranter will join Jonathan Simms to represent this group on AWMSG. Bethan will attend the December meeting. Nominations for two General Practitioners and two hospital consultants are to be sought.

The Chair announced the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Medicines Safety Week is being held from 4-10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and the theme is "Preventing side effects by using and prescribing medicines correctly". AWTTC is supporting this event by highlighting aspects of AWMSG's work. Staff from the Yellow Card Centre Wales will man a stand in the foyer of the University Hospital of Wales to

encourage people to get involved in the 'Your Medicines Your Health campaign' and to report any suspected adverse drug reactions via the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency's (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme.

The Chair thanked Dr Rick Greville for his support and valuable input into AWMSG's work after he chaired the AWTTTC Industry Forum meeting for the last time on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The Chair thanked Dr Thomas Curran and Dr Stephanie Francis from AWTTTC for their presentation on the AWMSG Medicines Strategy at the bilateral meeting between Welsh Government and the MHRA on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024. He confirmed the feedback from Welsh Government officials has been excellent.

The Chair announced the next Patient and Public Involvement meeting will be held virtually on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from 10:00 -11:45. The theme for this meeting is medicines adherence and there will be three presentations covering the topics of:

- Understanding health psychology in supporting adherence
- KidzMedz Cymru which improves medicines adherence in children by teaching them how to safely swallow pills
- Your Medicines Your Health campaign

The Chair encouraged patients, carers and members of the public to join and share their views and experiences and confirmed that time will be available for discussion and questions.

#### **6. Feedback from the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group meeting held 18 September 2024**

Dr Laurence Gray gave feedback from the last AWPAG meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and reported changes in membership - Gemma Rogers had resigned and Dianne Burnett had been appointed.

Dr Gray informed members that the All Wales Medicine Management Guidelines for Integrated Community Based Services document will be considered at the December AWPAG meeting.

Dr Gray confirmed that the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) will be presented to AWMSG for endorsement later in the meeting.

Members were informed that AWPAG had discussed which resources to retire on the AWTTTC website and agreed that the Dry Eye Syndrome Guidance will be retired and the Warfarin Monitoring document will be discussed further. AWPAG had considered feedback from the best practice day and discussed the 2025 event. Dr Gray invited members to submit any projects they would like to showcase to Claire Thomas at AWTTTC.

Dr Gray confirmed the next AWPAG meeting will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## **7. National Prescribing Indicators 2025–2028**

Shaila Ahmed gave an overview of the process by which the National Prescribing Indicators 2025-2028 had been developed and highlighted the key changes. Members voiced that the inclusion of Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors would be very beneficial going forward and were pleased to see these were included. Members felt that the updates made to the document validated the change to a three-yearly cycle. Members were pleased to hear that during the 2025–2028 NPI timeframe, individual indicators may be added, updated or retired, based on new evidence or safety concerns without the need to review the whole suite of NPIs. There was some discussion around the course duration antibiotics indicator and Phenoxyethylpenicillin for sore throat. It was highlighted the antibiotics included in the unit of measure had been developed through discussion with Public Health Wales and agreed with AWPAG. Members asked if there was any update on the Audit+ software being withdrawn from the market. Shaila Ahmed advised that the contract had been extended until 31/03/25 and that Digital Health Care Wales are looking into solutions for replacing Audit+ but none confirmed as yet.

**The Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of this paper.**

## **8. National Prescribing Indicators 2025–2028 – Supporting information for prescribers and healthcare professionals**

Shaila Ahmed presented members with an overview of updates to the Supporting Information for Prescribers and Healthcare Professionals document. It was highlighted the document acts as a 'quick reference guide' providing a summary for each of the indicators including the measure, use, aims for monitoring and suggestions on how changes can be made. There were no issues raised.

**The Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of this paper.**

## **9. Initial clinical management of nicotine withdrawal in adults in secondary care**

Karen Jones and Vicki Richards-Green presented members with an overview of the update on the document which addresses the potential unmet need of those who vape or use Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) who require nicotine replacement therapy to manage nicotine withdrawal symptoms whilst admitted to hospital as an inpatient. This document had been on hold following consultation whilst AWTTTC and the author worked collaboratively with Public Health Wales (PHW) Tobacco Control teams and the Help Me Quit in Hospital Programme Board to ensure information in the document relating to people who vape was aligned to wider ongoing work in the area and associated services. Since the update some medications have been discontinued and/or replaced and these will be amended in the document.

**The Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of this paper.**

## **10. Pharmacotherapy for smoking cessation – minor updates**

Karen Jones and Vicki Richards-Green provided the background and asked members to note the minor updates within the document. Changes included advice on Cytisinicline (cytisine) and additional information about vapes/ENDS. Tobacco harm reduction approaches have been updated and aligned with information from PHW and Help Me Quit groups. The document

highlights NICE guidelines and has a new section with information on Cytisinicline (cytisine). It was noted that AWMSG is not responsible for tobacco policy.

The Chair confirmed AWMSG's agreement to the minor changes.

**11. Any other business**

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

The Chair confirmed the next meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at The All Nations Centre, Cardiff