

Fu Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0424
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
at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at Cardiff Metropolitan
University, Cyncoed Campus, CF23 6XD**

Voting members present:

**Did not
participate in
agenda item:**

- | | |
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| 1. Prof Iolo Doull | Chairman |
| 2. Mrs Eleri Schiavone | Welsh Health Specialised Services
Committee |
| 3. Prof Dyfrig Hughes | Health Economist |
| 4. Mr Farhan Mughal | ABPI (Wales) |
| 5. Mrs Claire James | Lay Representative |
| 6. Mr Dylan Jones | Community Pharmacist |
| 7. Dr Richard Skone | Medical Director |
| 8. Ms Alison Hughes | Senior Primary Care Pharmacist |
| 9. Mr James Leaves | Director of Finance |
| 10. Mr David Fox | Senior Hospital Pharmacist |
| 11. Ms Katherine White | Senior Nurse |
| 12. Ms Cathy Wynne | Other healthcare professions eligible to
prescribe |
| 13. Dr Alison Thomas | Clinical Pharmacologist |
| 14. Dr Chris Brown | Chief Pharmacist |

Welsh Government:
Mr Andrew Evans

Medicines value unit:
Mr Mark Francis

AWTTC staff:

Ms Shaila Ahmed, Senior Pharmacist
Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist
Dr Andy Champion, Programme Director
Dr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist
Dr Paul Deslandes, Senior Pharmacist
Dr Stephanie Francis, Principal Scientist
Mr David Haines, Medical Writer
Ms Karen Jones, Senior Pharmacist
Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU

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
IR	Independent review
WHSSC	Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Access Group
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed members and observers, and explained the meeting protocol. He sought clarification of the members attending online and confirmed that the quorum had been met.

2. Apologies:

Dr Sam Cox, Hospital Consultant
Mr Hywel Pullen, Director of Finance
Prof Stephen Monaghan, Consultant in Public Health Medicine
Dr Manjeet Singh, Hospital Consultant
Mrs Pam James, Lay member
Mrs Julie Wilson-Thomas, Lay member

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chair invited declarations of interest. Ms Katherine White declared an interest for agenda item 9: The All Wales Policy for Medicines Administration, Recording, Review, Storage and Disposal (MARRS), due to involvement in the development of the document.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 November 2023 were checked for accuracy and approved. There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's report (verbal update)

The Chair informed members of One Wales Medicines Assessment Group virtual consultations held in December 2023 and January 2024 to review One Wales advice for:

- Bevacizumab 7.5 mg/kg for treatment of advanced ovarian, fallopian tube, or peritoneal cancer at high risk for progression

- Bendamustine and rituximab for treatment of untreated and relapsed indolent lymphomas
- Bendamustine and rituximab for treatment of untreated and relapsed mantle cell lymphoma
- Rituximab for second- or third-line treatment of interstitial lung disease

Members were informed the decision of OWMAG is to continue to support use of all four medicines for these indications. Bevacizumab will be reviewed after 1 year, or sooner should new evidence become available; the other three decisions will be reviewed in two years or sooner.

The Chair gave details of a meeting between NICE, SMC and AWTTTC on the 18th of January to discuss approaches to patient and public involvement. A further meeting is planned in April.

Members were informed the AWTTTC Industry Forum had met on the 25th January and discussed issues relating to access, implementation and optimisation of medicines. A short report will be presented to AWMSG in March to update members on progress in relation to the review of medicines access processes.

It was noted that a consultation on “All Wales guidance for penicillin allergy de-labelling in adults in secondary care” is currently open and due to close on Tuesday 20 February 2024. The Chair asked members to submit their comments to AWTTTC.

6. All Wales Adult Asthma Management and Prescribing Guidelines

Dr Katie Pink and Jackie Reynolds provided members with an overview of updates to the guidelines and the reasoning for these changes.

The upcoming NICE/British Thoracic Society (BTS) asthma guidelines (due for publication later in 2024) were discussed, and members queried whether they would conflict with the All Wales advice. It was explained that extensive discussions with practicing clinicians had taken place while developing the All Wales guidance, and conflicting advice was not anticipated. The All Wales guidance will also be reviewed when the NICE/BTS guidelines are released.

There was discussion on the recommendation to use an unlicensed medicine within the guidelines, and the consensus among members was that this was not unusual for AWMSG endorsed documents.

Members sought clarification that patients who could not access the AsthmaHub app would still have access to similar resources, and this was confirmed. The Chair reminded members that the app was beyond the scope of AWMSG.

The Chair thanked Dr Katie Pink and Jackie Reynolds for their time, and confirmed AWMSG’s endorsement of the update.

7. All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) Strategy for Wales: 2024–2029

Dr Thomas Curran and Dr Stephanie Francis provided members with an update on the AWMSG strategy, summarising the changes that had been made to the document since the last AWMSG meeting in December 2023.

Members praised the strategy, and were happy to endorse. Some minor changes to wording were agreed during the discussion which were to be made by AWTTTC and confirmed by the Chair following the meeting. Members felt it was important that following endorsement, engagement with partners named in the strategy was needed, and feedback on progress should be given to members.

The Chair thanked Dr Thomas Curran and Dr Stephanie Francis for their work, and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the strategy.

8. All Wales Protocol for the appropriate prescribing of antipsychotics for people living with dementia

Dr Elizabeth Bond and Dr Chineze Ivenso provided members with an overview of the proposed protocol and the clinical context for its use. Members enquired whether any patient information leaflets would be included in the protocol. It was confirmed that links to leaflets were provided within the protocol. Members felt that a leaflet produced by the Alzheimer's Society (linked to within the protocol) was particularly good, and thought it may be useful to reproduce some of the content in a separate document to be included alongside the protocol in a prominent, bilingual format, such as a flyer. It was agreed that AWTTTC would look into developing this.

The Chair thanked Dr Elizabeth Bond and Dr Chineze Ivenso for attending, and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement (the supplementary work to be signed off by Chair's action).

9. The All Wales Policy for Medicines Administration, Recording, Review, Storage and Disposal (MARRS)

Dr Lynette James provided members with an overview of updates to the policy, and explained the context behind these changes. It was confirmed that further work on a Medicines Management in Social Care document is in progress as a separate document, with a timeline for publication currently set at late 2024. There was extensive discussion on the issue of self-administration, including the practicalities and the potential implications. Members discussed the importance of allowing patients to self-administer medicines when it was felt safe to do so, and when the patient had capacity. It was noted that capacity may vary throughout a hospital stay as a patient's condition is subject to change. Members discussed how best to assess capacity day by day. Discussion was raised around the terminology used for the second check recommendation, and on the ongoing issue with non-adherence of medicines. Members then discussed the implementation phase of this work, including how best to engage relevant staff, and the possibility of follow-up work after endorsement to encourage the use of the guidance.

The Chair thanked Dr James for attending and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the update

10. All Wales Common Ailments Service (CAS) formulary – Monograph for urinary tract infection in women and transgender males who have not undergone sex reassignment surgery

Mrs Dianne Burnett and Ms Ffion Evans presented members with an overview of the urinary tract infection monograph, which will be added to the 'All Wales CAS formulary' document. Members were told that the monograph had been developed based on a successful pilot service in Hywel Dda and was written after considering national guidelines and UTI service specifications in other areas of the UK. Members were informed that patient information leaflets and patient group directions (PGDs) will be developed and provided alongside the update. There was discussion regarding community pharmacists issuing antibiotics via a PGD. It was noted that this already takes place as part of the sore throat test and treat service, and there is robust data collection as part of this.

The Chair thanked Dianne Burnett and Ffion Evans for attending and confirmed AWMSG's endorsement of the update

11. Feedback from AWPAG: Meeting held 13 December 2023

Mrs Claire Thomas provided members with an update following the most recent AWPAG meeting. Members were informed of new AWPAG members, and vacancies for doctor positions. Members were given an update of ongoing projects, including the penicillin allergy de-labelling in secondary care document which is currently out for consultation, the prescribing dilemmas document, the 2025-2028 National Prescribing Indicators, and the smoking cessation resources. Feedback from the SPIRA Steering Committee and issues with opioid burden data were also discussed.

12. AWMSG Annual Report – Moving to a digital-first publication

Dr Thomas Curran informed members of the plan to produce a digital-first AWMSG annual report. Members were informed that this format is greener, can have additional functionality and, through the use of hyperlinks, can drive more traffic to the AWTTTC website. Members were supportive of the plan, provided that the option of a viable printed version was available for those who required it.

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 5th March 2024
Venue: Cardiff (All Nations Centre)