

Enclosure No:	1/AWMSG/0926
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 09:30am on Wednesday, 15th July 2026 at the
All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY**

**Did not
participate
in agenda
item:**

Voting members present:

- 1. Prof Iolo Doull Chair**
- 2. Prof Stephen Monaghan Consultant in Public Health Medicine**
- 3. Ms Angharad Lawson NWJCC Representative**
- 4. Prof Dyfrig Hughes Health Economist**
- 5. Ms Katie Parish ABPI (Wales)**
- 6. Mrs Pam James Lay Representative**
- 7. Ms Julie Wilson-Thomas Lay Representative**
- 8. Dr Richard Skone Medical Director**
- 9. Miss Rafia Jamil Managed Sector Pharmacist – Primary
Care**
- 10. Mr David Fox Managed Sector Pharmacist – Hospital
Pharmacist**
- 11. Mr Hywel Pullen Director of Finance**
- 12. Mrs Katherine White Senior Nurse**
- 13. Mrs Cathy Wynne Other healthcare professions eligible to
prescribe not already represented**
- 14. Dr Alison Thomas Clinical Pharmacologist**
- 15. Mrs Bethan Tranter Director of Pharmacy**

Welsh Government:

Ms Emily Guerin

Medicines Values Unit:

Ms Rhiannon Walters-Davies

AWTTC staff:

Mr Richard Boldero, Senior Pharmacist

Dr Andrew Champion, Programme Director

Mr Thomas Curran, Principal Scientist

Dr Bridget-Ann Kenny, Senior Scientist

Mrs Ruth Lang, Senior Liaison Manager

Miss Laura Phillips, Administration Manager

Mrs Claire Thomas, Head of WAPSU and Medicines Optimisation

Mr Tony 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
BNF	British National Formulary
CAS	All Wales Common Ailments Service
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
GPW	Genomic Partnership Wales
HTA	Health Technology Appraisal
ILAP	Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway
IPFR	Individual Patient Funding Request Process
IR	Independent Review
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
LOWMAG	Licensed One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
MVU	Medicines Value Unit
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
OWMAG	One Wales Medicines Assessment Group
PAPIG	Patient & Public Involvement Group
PAMS	Patient Access to Medicines Service
PGDs	Patient Group Directions
SPIRA	Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis
VPAG	Voluntary Scheme for Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth
WMAS	Welsh Medicines Advice Service
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit

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:

Voting members:

Mr Dylan Jones, Community Pharmacist

Mr Tommy Price, ABPI (Wales)

Dr Owen Seddon, Hospital Consultant

Non-voting members:

Mr Andrew Evans, Welsh Government

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chair invited declarations of interest. There were none.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2026 were approved as an accurate record. The Chair confirmed the actions from the June meeting had been completed:

The draft minutes of the meeting held in May had been updated and published on the AWTTTC website.

A reminder had been sent to Health Boards and Velindre requesting a date for their engagement session with AWMSG.

A closed session would be held at the close of the meeting to discuss the approach for health board engagement sessions.

A letter would be sent to Digital Health and Care Wales if no response was received by the end of July regarding delivery of the SGLT-2 inhibitor indicator data.

The action on yellow card feedback was left open because Jim McGuigan was not present.

A paper on complex therapies governance framework will be presented to AWMSG in September or October.

Engagement with the Medicines Optimisation Framework review is ongoing.

Members noted that amendments to align the biological medicines work with value and sustainability measures had been discussed.

AWTTTC will address terminology relating to “appraisal” and “assessment” in the Licenced Medicines Policy document, while recognising that wider website terminology may also require attention in the future.

5. Chair's report (verbal update)

The Chair reported that the AWTTC Best Practice Day, "Medicines for a Sustainable Future", had taken place at the All Nations Centre and had attracted more than 165 delegates. The event had been opened by Marie Brousseau-Navarro, Deputy Future Generations Commissioner and Director for Health, and informal feedback had been very positive. The Chair congratulated the team and noted that presentations would be made available on the AWTTC website.

Members were informed that the consultation on the All Wales Implementation Framework for biological medicines in COPD is open and will close on 18 August 2026. The All Wales Guide to Prescribing Gluten-Free Foods had also gone out for consultation for five weeks and will close on 14 August 2026. Members were encouraged to review the document, submit comments and share it with relevant colleagues.

The Chair confirmed the AWTTC Industry Forum meeting scheduled for 16th July had been cancelled as several apologies had been received. The members have been encouraged to contact AWTTC with any concerns or issues. The next meeting is planned for 25 October 2026.

The Chair reported that, following changes to NICE's cost-effectiveness thresholds, AWTTC will prepare a short briefing paper for AWMSG for discussion at either the September or October meeting.

Members noted that the NICE cost effectiveness threshold had changed from £20,000–£30,000 to £25,000–£35,000 per QALY, which represented a 25% increase at the lower end. Members also noted that the change applied to technology appraisals and not to NICE's other products, and that Health Technology Wales was considering similar issues for medtech assessments.

Dyfrig Hughes highlighted a recent BMJ article on the potential implications of the threshold change and the lack of transparency in the decision-making and impact assessment. Katie Parish stated that ABPI had published a response to that article. It was agreed that both would be circulated to members.

Actions:

- 1. AWTTC to prepare a briefing paper on the NICE threshold changes for the September or October 2026 meeting**
- 2. AWTTC to circulate the BMJ article and ABPI response**

6. Medicines Identified as Low Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales (2026 review)

Richard Boldero presented the 2026 review of medicines identified as low value for prescribing in NHS Wales. The review had been overseen by the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group, with input from AWTTTC and health board colleagues, following a request from the Value and Sustainability Medicines Delivery Assurance Group. Members were asked to endorse the document.

The paper proposed retaining a number of medicines within the safety and efficiency domains, removing several medicines from the active recommendation list due to low usage or lack of ongoing efficiency gain, and temporarily removing lidocaine 5% plasters to allow further focused work. Members noted that lidocaine plasters raised complex issues, including off-label use, and initiation in secondary care with continuation in primary care. It was proposed that the Value and Sustainability Medicines Delivery Assurance Group should oversee a short-life working group to consider those issues in more detail.

Members also agreed that the low value for prescribing National Prescribing Indicator basket should mirror the active recommendation list in the document. Blood glucose testing strips will be excluded as they are already being monitored and reported separately by the Value and Sustainability Medicines Delivery Assurance Group. Richard Boldero explained that data will be made available through a new SPIRA dashboard on the AWTTTC website.

Members welcomed the paper and the Chair confirmed AWMSG's endorsement subject to minor amendments. These included making the summary clearer and adding wording about the need for clear communication when prescribing decisions are made in secondary care and expected to be continued in primary care.

Actions:

- 1. National Prescribing Indicator basket to be updated.**
- 2. Document to be updated as agreed before publication.**

7. Environmentally sustainable medicines management in Wales

Sian Evans presented a discussion paper developed following a stakeholder event held in March 2026. The paper described the output of that event and set out proposed recommendations for progressing environmentally sustainable medicines management in Wales. Members noted that the work had built on previous activity for inhalers and anaesthetic gases, and that pharmaceuticals accounted for a substantial proportion of the NHS carbon footprint. The paper emphasised that this work was not only about decarbonisation, but also about medicines optimisation, prevention, patient self-care, waste reduction, resilience and better patient outcomes.

Members agreed that this topic required national leadership, a coordinated approach, agreed priorities and collaboration across AWTTTC, Public Health Wales, Welsh Government, health boards and other partners. Claire Thomas informed members that AWTTTC capacity was limited, but AWTTTC could establish a short-life working group to identify relevant metrics and report

them to AWMSG. Members discussed the need to make better use of existing AWTTTC medicines optimisation resources, consider how best practice could be shared, and clarify how environmental sustainability aligned with the remit of the Value and Sustainability Medicines Delivery Assurance Group.

Julie Wilson-Thomas raised concerns about safe disposal of unused medicines by people who received home deliveries and could not easily return unwanted medicines to a pharmacy. Members noted the practical and regulatory challenges, including waste transport requirements, and agreed that accumulation of unused medicines at home should be considered as part of the wider work.

Action:

AWTTTC to establish a short life working group to identify metrics to report to AWMSG.

8. All Wales Common Ailment Scheme formulary – minor updates

Thomas Curran presented updates to the All Wales Common Ailments Service formulary. Updates had been made across 12 monographs, including acne vulgaris, athlete's foot, chickenpox, dry eye disease, dry skin/contact dermatitis/atopic eczema, fungal skin infections of the body and groin, haemorrhoids, head lice, ingrowing toenails, nappy rash, oral thrush and vulvovaginal thrush.

Members noted that changes had largely been made to align with NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries, BNF advice, Welsh Government optometry arrangements, British Association for Sexual Health and HIV advice, and Specialist Pharmacy Service advice where relevant.

Rafia Jamil asked whether there was communication with GPs when pharmacies supplied medicines that were not recommended in pregnancy or breastfeeding, particularly where a patient might become pregnant later and the GP would not otherwise know about topical treatment supplied through the service. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Welsh Medicines Advice Service, which coordinated development of the patient group directions, so that the advice could be checked.

Action:

AWTTTC to contact WMAS for them to consider inclusion of advice on communication between pharmacies and GPs when medicines are supplied that are not recommended in pregnancy or breastfeeding.

9. Planning session for health board attendance at AWMSG

This was discussed in a closed session after the public meeting.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair closed the public meeting and confirmed that there would be no August meeting. He confirmed the next AWMSG meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 9th September 2026** and Dyfrig Hughes will take on the role of chair.

Venue: All Nations Centre, Sachville Avenue, Cardiff, CF14 3NY