

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

Annual Report 2021–2022

*“Supporting prudent prescribing to obtain the best
outcomes from medicines for patients in Wales”*



*This document is available in Welsh
Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg*

Contents

Chair's welcome	03
Milestones reached this year	05
2021–2022 in numbers	05
Profile of AWMMSG	06
Top news stories	06
Delivering the recommendations of AWMMSG's five-year strategy 2018–2023	07

Working in partnership	10
Involving patients and the public	11
Involving healthcare professionals	13
Involving the pharmaceutical industry	15

News	17
AWMSG and sustainability	17
New dashboard to help NHS Wales reduce the carbon footprint from inhaler use	18
AWMSG and AWTTTC launch new merged website	19
AWTTTC co-host the HTAi Annual Meeting and research activities	20
Maximising medicines access and efficiency	22
AWTTTC highlights the role IT tools have in maximising evidence-based prescribing	24
Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) meetings	25
Best Practice Days	27
AWMSG Open Days	28
Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic	29

Medicines optimisation	31
Medicines optimisation framework	31
Prescribing guidance and resources	31
Acknowledged resources	34
Prescribing monitoring and analysis	35
National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs)	35

Health Technology Assessment	37
Advice issued between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	37
Developments in the appraisal process	39
Wales Patient Access Scheme	41

Membership	42
AWMSG	42
AWPAG	43
NMG	44

Chair's welcome

A review of April 2021 to March 2022



Professor Iolo Doull
AWMSG Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iolo Doull'.

The period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 has been challenging but interesting. I've been heartened to see how we have been able to adapt our work to meet the challenges of a protracted COVID-19 global pandemic and the resilience and innovation that has been shown by all staff working within NHS Wales and in social care. The central role that medicines have played throughout the pandemic highlights the importance of the work that the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) and its sub-groups, the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG)

and the New Medicines Group (NMG), does in advising Welsh Government and supporting colleagues with prescribing and medicines management. The support provided by the multi-disciplinary team working within the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), based in the Routledge Academic Centre in the University Hospital Llandough, has been invaluable and unique.

"Now is the time for change to make sure that Wales is a great place to live for future generations"

It has also been a time of reflection and contemplation as we supported each other through this tremendously difficult period. With restrictions easing towards the end of this reporting period, the future is looking a little brighter and we must aim to bounce back and improve our mental health and well-being – more social prescribing with increased exercise and a healthier lifestyle. Medicines has a part to play, but the benefits of taking a medicine needs to outweigh any risks associated with it.

As ever the medicines landscape is changing rapidly, even more so since the UK's departure from the European Union. There is a noticeable shift to collaborative working across the whole of the UK to ensure that patients can access new and innovative medicines regardless of where they live. We continue



to raise awareness of the importance of pharmacovigilance and the responsibility of everyone to report adverse reactions to medicines and vaccines. Now is the time for change to make sure that Wales is a great place to live for future generations, aiming for a healthier more sustainable Wales and the AWMSG has a key role to play in reducing the environmental impact of medicines. I have already seen some very positive steps forward with AWMSG's recent endorsement of respiratory guidance for Wales and the launch of the new dashboard by AWTTTC which will help health professionals monitor the use of inhalers and support prescribers in having conversations with their patients about more environmentally friendly inhalers. We must endeavour to improve value, reduce waste and demonstrate better health outcomes for the people of Wales: I intend to ensure that these objectives will be the focus for the AWMSG in this coming year.

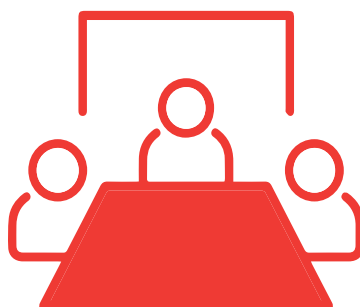


“We must endeavour to improve value, reduce waste and demonstrate better health outcomes”

Milestones reached this year



19 years

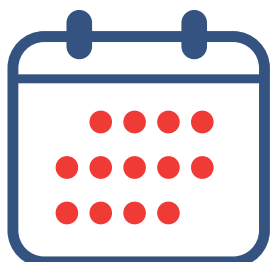


132 AWMMSG meetings



424 appraisals

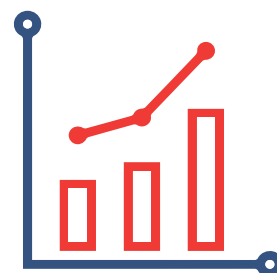
2021–2022 in numbers



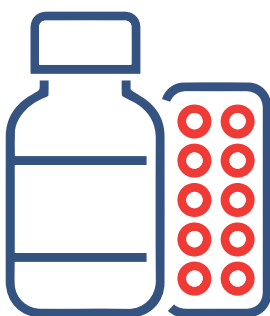
9 meetings held
([see page 6](#))



14 medicines
optimisation
publications
([see page 31](#))



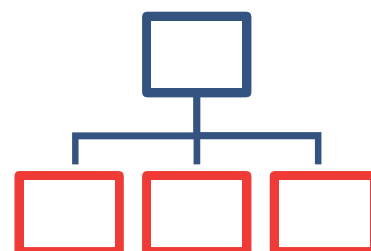
15 National Prescribing
Indicators monitored
([see page 35](#))



21 medicines
appraised
([see page 37](#))



95% positive
appraisals
([see page 37](#))



9 Wales Patient
Access Schemes
processed
([see page 41](#))

Profile of AWMSG

Our vision for Wales – “Achieve the best outcomes from medicines for the people of Wales”

Name:

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG)

Established:

2002

Role:

To advise Welsh Government on strategic developments in prescribing as outlined in the AWMSG five-year strategy

Members:

Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, academics, health economists, a pharmaceutical industry representative, lay members and a Director of Finance (see Membership on [page 42](#) for individual members)

Meetings:

9 virtual meetings held in 2021–2022

Subgroups:

The New Medicines Group (NMG) and the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG)

Organisational:

Work is planned by the AWMSG Steering Committee and secretariat support is provided by the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC)

More information:

awttc.nhs.wales (English)

cttcg.gig.cymru (Welsh)

[@AWTTComms](https://twitter.com/AWTTComms) (English Twitter account)

[@AWTTCcymraeg](https://twitter.com/AWTTCcymraeg) (Welsh Twitter account)

Top news stories

AWMSG and sustainability

Delivering a healthier Wales for future generations in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ([see page 17](#)).

AWTTC highlights the role IT tools have in maximising evidence-based prescribing

A collaboration between AWTTC and two IT solution providers ensures AWMSG's key prescribing messages are visible to prescribers in Wales ([see page 24](#)).

Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) meetings

PAPIG meetings resume and reach out to people from all areas of Wales and the UK ([see page 25](#)).

AWMSG Open Days

AWTTC deliver five Open Days for industry, with more to come in 2022–2023 ([see page 28](#)).

Delivering the recommendations of AWMMSG's five-year strategy 2018–2023

AWMSG works with partners to deliver the recommendations of the Medicines Strategy for Wales 2018–2023 to improve the safe use of medicines, promote best practice and optimise the use of medicines to benefit the people of Wales. The table below provides an update on the work undertaken to implement the recommendations during the reporting period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. [The AWMMSG five-year strategy 2018–2023](#) can be viewed on the AWTTTC website.

Work undertaken to implement the recommendations during April 2021 to March 2022		
Title	Type of publication	Strategy recommendation
Medicines Optimisation Framework	Medicines optimisation resource	4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
NHS Wales GP Cluster Prescribing Leads Forum proposal – the Royal College of General Practitioners webinar January 2022	Report and presentation	2.1 Workforce development
AWTTTC: Supporting implementation of advanced therapy medicinal products in NHS Wales	Report	4.6 Health technology assessment – ensuring the appraisal process is reviewed and meets the developing needs of NHS Wales
AWMSG: 18 years' experience of a national medicines optimisation committee. Haines et al. British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology 2021; 87(10): 3961-3970.	Research publication	4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
Appraisal of biosimilar medicines report	Report	4.7 Wales Patient Access Scheme – ensuring NHS Wales recoups any financial discounts
Initial clinical management of adult smokers in secondary care guideline	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.2 Nationally available medicines list 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
Material to support appropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics across Wales (2021 update)	Medicines optimisation resource	1.3 Ensuring fair and equitable provision of healthcare 2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 3.3 Medication review 3.4 Medicine-related harm 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
National Prescribing Indicators 2021–2022: educational module	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development

Work undertaken to implement the recommendations during April 2021 to March 2022

Title	Type of publication	Strategy recommendation
All Wales advice on sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors in type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
Tramadol educational resources (2021 review)	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 3.4 Medicine-related harm 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within Wales
Pharmacogenetics in Wales	Report	3.4 Medicine-related harm
AWMSG Communication and Engagement Strategy	Report	1.1 Partnership with the public 2.1 Workforce development 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
All Wales chronic obstructive pulmonary disease management and prescribing guideline (2021 update)	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 4.2 Nationally available medicines list 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.8 Using data to improve patient outcomes
All Wales adult asthma management and prescribing guideline (2021 update)	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 4.2 Nationally available medicines list 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.8 Using data to improve patient outcomes
National Prescribing Indicators 2022–2023	Medicines optimisation resource	4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.5 National Prescribing Indicators
National Prescribing Indicators 2022–2023 – Supporting information for prescribers and healthcare professionals	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development
National Prescribing Indicators 2021–2022: Quarterly reports	Report	4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.5 National Prescribing Indicators
AWMSG Acknowledgement: Heart failure in Wales – A parallel approach	Medicines optimisation resource (Acknowledgement)	2.1 Workforce development 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales

Work undertaken to implement the recommendations during April 2021 to March 2022

Title	Type of publication	Strategy recommendation
AWMSG Acknowledgement: Antimicrobial wound dressings: Statement, recommendations and guidance	Medicines optimisation resource (Acknowledgement)	2.1 Workforce development 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
AWMSG Acknowledgement: Cellulitis guidelines for people with lymphoedema/ chronic oedema in NHS Wales	Medicines optimisation resource (Acknowledgement)	2.1 Workforce development 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
Primary care antimicrobial guidelines	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.5 National Prescribing Indicators
Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme national audit – focus on antibiotic prescribing	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales 4.5 National Prescribing Indicators
Management of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> infection in Wales	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
Management of recurrent symptomatic urinary tract infection in adult women	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 2.3 Safe medication systems 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
All Wales advice on oral anticoagulation in non-valvular atrial fibrillation (2022 update)	Medicines optimisation resource	2.1 Workforce development 4.2 Nationally available medicines list 4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales
NHS Wales decarbonisation dashboard and Inhaler carbon footprint reports	Medicines optimisation resource and reports	4.3 Improving prescribing and medicines optimisation within NHS Wales

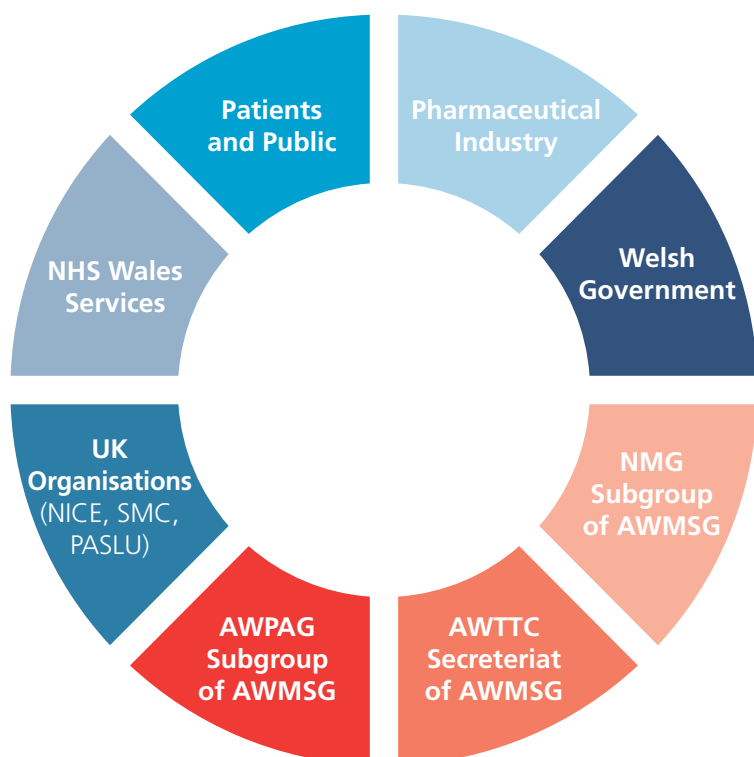
Working in partnership

AWMSG works with patients and the public, healthcare professionals and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as Welsh Government and relevant UK organisations, to issue recommendations on new medicines, and guidance on optimising medicines use.

Here we introduce our three key partners:

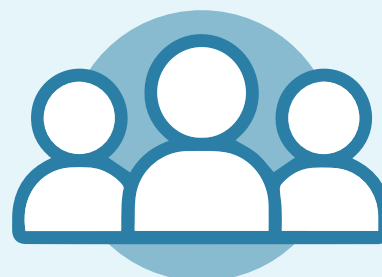
- patients and the public;
- healthcare professionals; and
- the pharmaceutical industry.

We summarise how each has been involved in the work of AWMSG and what we have achieved together over the past year.



In this report we use icons to represent each partner, to highlight the news stories relevant to that partner.

Look out for these icons for news stories you might be interested in.



Patients and the public

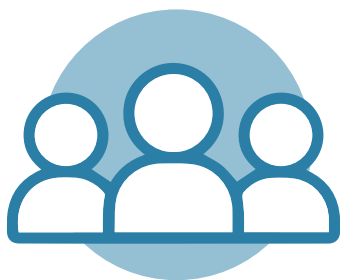


Healthcare professionals



Pharmaceutical industry

Involving patients and the public



Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG)

Our Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) was set up to help AWMSG involve patients and patient organisations in its work. We hold quarterly meetings for PAPIG members, who provide vital input into our work. Everyone is welcome to join – [find out more about PAPIG from the AWTTTC website](#).

Patient and carer submissions for new medicines

AWMSG asks for views from patients, and their families and carers, during all medicine appraisals. AWMSG's committee members consider these views when making their recommendations. For one medicine for a rare disease, appraised during the past year, we held a Clinician and Patient Involvement Group (CAPIG) meeting to further assess the benefits of the medicine (see [page 40](#) for details). The AWTTTC website has more information on [how to make a submission and the medicines currently undergoing AWMSG appraisal](#).

Patient and public consultation responses

AWMSG encourages patients, their families and carers, and the general public to take part in consultations when developing any resources for medicines optimisation. Every

response is considered and addressed before the resource is finalised, endorsed and published.

On the AWTTTC website you can read more on [how to submit a response and consultations that are currently open](#).

Lay members of our committees

Lay members are full voting members of AWMSG and its subgroups: NMG and AWPAG. The lay members present the views received from patients, their families and carers, and the general public of Wales. This year, we increased the number of lay members on each committee from one to two.

Email awttc@wales.nhs.uk to find out if we have any vacancies for lay members and register your interest.

Website and social media

Our website and Twitter channel are two important ways we communicate with our stakeholders. Read about [our new website that we launched in January 2022](#).

Visit our website at awttc.nhs.wales and cttcg.gig.cymru and follow us on Twitter at [@AWTTCComms](https://twitter.com/AWTTCComms) and [@AWTTCCymraeg](https://twitter.com/AWTTCCymraeg).

AWMSG meetings

AWMSG meetings are open to the public. We publish the [minutes of previous meetings and dates of future ones](#) on the AWTTTC website.

3 PAPIG meetings



24 speakers



97 attendees

77 patient submissions received for 21 appraisals

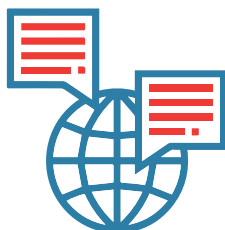


13 consultations

11 responses from patients, public or representatives of patient charities

115,000

separate website visits



452,000

pages viewed

55,000

tweet impressions



>23,000

profile visits

2 lay members on each committee



9 AWMMSG meetings

Involving healthcare professionals



Committees

AWMSG and its subgroups have a broad geographical and multi-professional representation. If you would like to volunteer to become a [member](#) contact AWTTTC to register your interest.

Project proposals

Healthcare professionals working in Wales can submit a [project proposal](#), to bring their work through AWMSG's robust endorsement process, which includes consultation with key stakeholders.

Consultations

AWMSG produces prescribing guidance and other medicines optimisation resources to help patients and healthcare professionals. Register an interest to comment on these resources or visit the [consultations page](#) on the AWTTTC website.

AWTTTC's Best Practice Day

AWTTTC hosts regular Best Practice Day meetings, giving healthcare professionals in Wales an opportunity to share their medicines optimisation work and projects. Read about the events held in [April](#) and [October](#) 2021.

Clinical experts

We encourage any clinicians who are interested to contact [AWTTTC](#) for more details of AWMSG's work and the ways you can get

involved. This might include horizon scanning, health technology assessments and medicines optimisation projects.

One Wales Medicines Process

Clinicians can submit a request for a medicine to be considered for the [One Wales process](#) by completing a medicine request form.

Collaboration with clinical networks

AWTTTC and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) hosted a therapeutics rapid update webinar to help support prescribing in primary care.

AWTTTC has strengthened its links with the Welsh Cancer Network and a horizon scanning cancer subgroup has been formed.

AWTTTC is collaborating with the All Wales Genomics Oncology Group (AWGOG) to facilitate an All Wales horizon scanning process for haemato-oncology and solid tumour precision medicines.



Healthcare professionals on our committees:

11

AWMSG

10

NMG

13

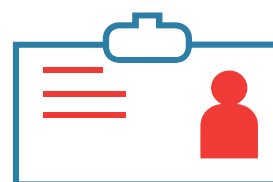
AWPAG



13

medicines
optimisation
consultations

2 Best
Practice
Days



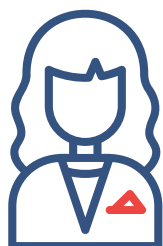
143

consultation
responses



133

attendees



34

clinical experts involved
in health technology
assessments



38

clinical experts

+



5

expert groups

involved in developing medicines
optimisation resources

Involving the pharmaceutical industry



AWTTC Industry Forum (AIF)

AWTTC works closely with the [AIF](#) (formerly the Therapeutic Development Assessment Partnership Group) to support AWMSG in ensuring safe and effective prescribing of new medicines in Wales. Topics discussed at recent meetings include AWMSG's appraisal process documentation; AWTTC's medicines optimisation work programme; AWMSG's best practice guidelines; sustainability; and commercial arrangements.

Horizon scanning for new medicines

AWTTC's horizon scanning team gathers information on new medicines, indications and formulations in the pharmaceutical pipeline. [UK PharmaScan](#) is the team's primary source of information. [Find out more about horizon scanning](#) on the AWTTC website.

Medicine appraisals

Companies are encouraged to engage in AWMSG's appraisal process as soon as regulatory submission timelines are confirmed. AWTTC will confirm if a medicine meets the AWMSG criteria for appraisal. If it does, pharmaceutical companies are invited to take part in the AWMSG meeting. [Information on the appraisal process](#) is on the AWTTC website.

AWMSG consultations

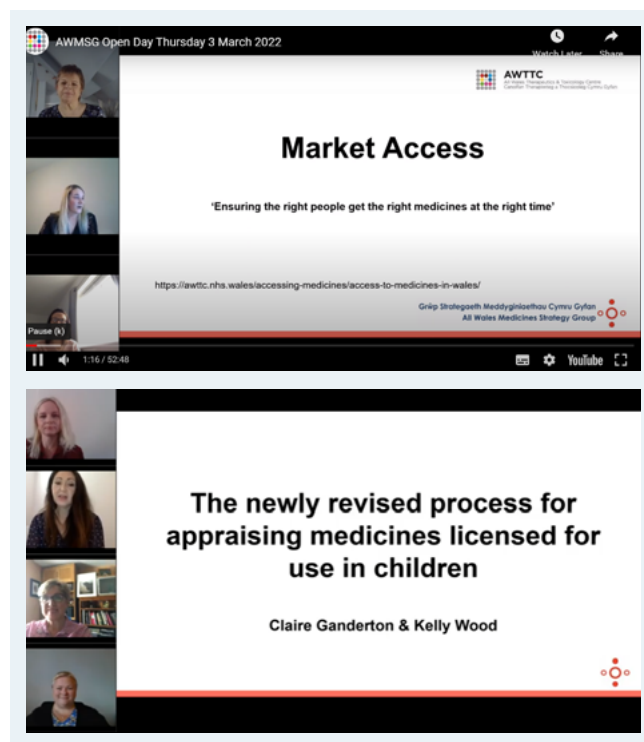
Visit our [consultations page](#) on the AWTTC website to read the documents and give feedback.

AWMSG Open Days

Pharmaceutical companies had the opportunity to meet representatives from AWMSG and AWTTC, and to learn more about our work. [Find out about the AWMSG open days](#) on the AWTTC website.

AWMSG meetings

AWMSG meetings are open to the public. We publish the [minutes of previous meetings and dates of future ones](#) on the AWTTC website.

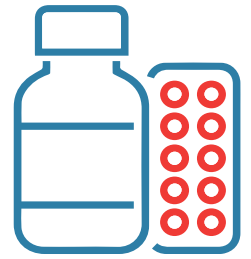




4
AIF meetings

175 medicines
identified

38 companies contacted



13 consultations



30 responses from
pharmaceutical industry



45

medicines
considered
for appraisal

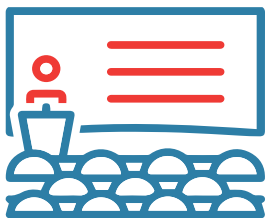
6 open
days



10 topics

21

appraisals



13 speakers



301 attendees



9 AWMMSG
meetings

AWMSG and sustainability



In early 2021, a small group of staff at AW TTC started looking at how the recommendations in AWMSG's five-year work strategy aligned with the 7 goals that were set out by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The 7 connected goals are:

- a prosperous Wales
- a resilient Wales
- a healthier Wales
- a more equal Wales
- a Wales of cohesive communities
- a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- a globally responsible Wales.

This resulted in a report that highlighted AWMSG's past and current work to help Wales meet these goals – and also started off a plan of actions for AW TTC.

AW TTC's Sustainability Group

In June 2021 AW TTC staff attended the first virtual [Green Health Wales](#) conference. AW TTC then set up a Sustainability Group with the aim of helping AW TTC and AWMSG work towards addressing the climate emergency. The Group will help to make sure we follow sustainable development – working to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. And that we work in sustainable ways.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act sets out 5 ways of working in a sustainable way:

- taking account of the long term;
- taking an integrated approach;
- involving people;
- collaborating; and
- preventing problems from getting worse.

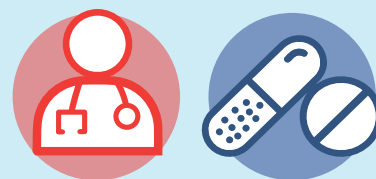
Equality and health impact assessments

AW TTC plans to complete an equality and health impact assessment (EqHIA) form for all AWMSG's Medicines Optimisation projects, and AW TTC projects and policies. Our aim is that the form is filled in at the start of a project, and would then accompany the project document through its development and sign-off by AWMSG.

At the point of consultation the form will be available on the AW TTC website alongside the project documents, and all stakeholders will be invited to comment on the assessment as well as on the project documents.

AW TTC started using its EqHIA form in late 2021, for a project about [medicines in care homes in Wales](#).

New dashboard to help NHS Wales reduce the carbon footprint from inhaler use



WAPSU has developed a dashboard to report on progress in reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers used in primary care in Wales. It was officially launched in January 2022 and is available for all NHS staff to use on the [Server for Prescribing Information and Analysis \(SPIRA\)](#).

The dashboard measures the indicative carbon footprint for inhalers supplied in primary care. This is reported in a standard unit of measure, as carbon dioxide equivalence, for the types and therapeutic classes of inhalers issued. The key metrics from this are stated at a health board, cluster and GP practice level.

What does the dashboard do?

The dashboard supports prescribers to implement the AWMSG-endorsed [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease \(COPD\) Management and Prescribing Guideline](#) and the [Asthma Management and Prescribing Guideline](#).

In 2021, these guidelines were updated to encourage consideration of the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) when prescribing inhalers. The guidelines recommend the preferential prescribing of dry powder inhalers (DPIs) and soft mist inhalers (SMIs). These inhaler types have a significantly reduced environmental impact compared with the more commonly used metered dose inhalers (MDIs).

The [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) aims to increase the use of inhalers with a low global warming potential (GWP); to reach a target of 80% of the total inhalers issued, by 2025. The dashboard will show progress to achieving this target.

AWTTC anticipates that the dashboard will also help inform conversations between prescribers and patients about the carbon footprint of their inhalers and, where appropriate, switching to alternative inhalers. Although the focus of the dashboard is to encourage the use of inhalers with low GWP, patient preference is still the most important factor.

How often is it updated?

AWTTC produces [monthly reports](#), titled 'Measuring the carbon footprint of inhaler use within primary care in Wales'. These are intended as a brief overview of some of the key metrics given in the decarbonisation dashboard.

The monthly reports are shared with key stakeholders, including at the publicly held [AWMSG](#) meetings, as well as the quarterly [AWPAG](#) meetings.

Where can I find out more?

The [inhaler carbon footprint reports](#) are publicly available on the AWTTC website.

AWMSG and AWTTTC launch new merged website



In January 2022 we completed the merger of the old AWTTTC and AWMSG websites to launch a new site – awttc.nhs.wales (English) and cttcg.gig.cymru (Welsh). This new website brings together all the information and resources for both organisations in one place.

The independent review of AWMSG in 2019 found that people in Wales were often unaware of the difference between AWMSG and AWTTTC, and were confused about the roles and responsibilities of each organisation. This made it difficult for people to find resources and guidance on the two different websites.



Bringing all the information together on one website will make it easier for users to find what they are looking for and it helps AWMSG and AWTTTC achieve a shared objective of 'supporting prudent prescribing to obtain the best outcomes from medicines for patients in Wales'.

"Working with a digital consultancy and involving our users helped us to structure the new website. We hope the AWTTTC website now shows the work of AWTTTC and AWMSG in a way that ensures our audience can easily find what they need."

Dr Clare Elliott
AWTTTC Senior Scientist and
website technical lead

We worked with a Cardiff-based consultancy that specialises in the design, development and delivery of user-centred digital platforms. With their help we've created a website that meets the requirements of all our users. These include: NHS Wales colleagues; clinicians; pharmacists; nurses and planners; the pharmaceutical industry; Welsh Government; partner organisations such as NICE and the MHRA; universities; patient organisations; patients, carers and their families; and the general public.

Anyone using our new website can give us their views and suggestions through an online survey.

You can access the website from awttc.nhs.wales (English) and cttcg.gig.cymru (Welsh). Your feedback would be very welcome.

AWTTC co-host the HTAi Annual Meeting and research activities



AWTTC co-hosted the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, alongside Healthcare Improvement Scotland and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

The Annual Meeting supports the mission of HTAi to promote the development, understanding and use of health technology assessment (HTA) around the world, as a means of fostering innovation and effective use of resources in health care.

Nearly one thousand HTA professionals from all over the world attended the meeting for two days of workshops and three days of presentations.

AWTTC hosted a virtual exhibition stand and presented five posters:

- [Recommending pre-exposure prophylaxis for human immunodeficiency viruses](#)
- [Delivering hormone-sensitive prostate cancer treatment during COVID-19](#)
- [Developing an All Wales New Treatment Fund Monitoring System](#)
- [Implementation of One Wales recommendations](#)
- [The impact of the One Wales medicines process](#)

Only Men Aloud, a Welsh male voice choir, performed at the HTAi Welcome Reception. You can watch a [video of their performance](#) on the AWTTC website.



>4,250
hours of
content
viewed by
attendees

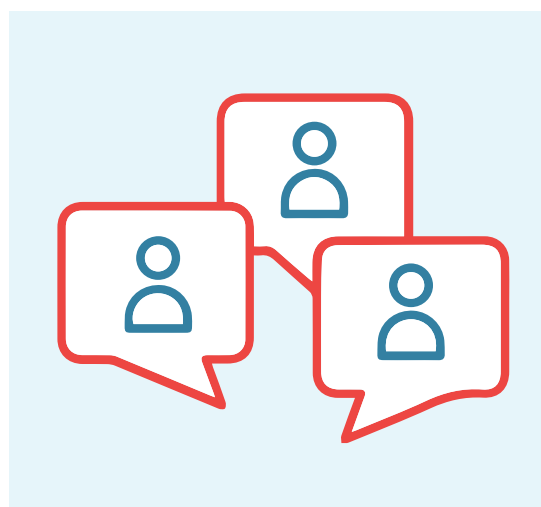
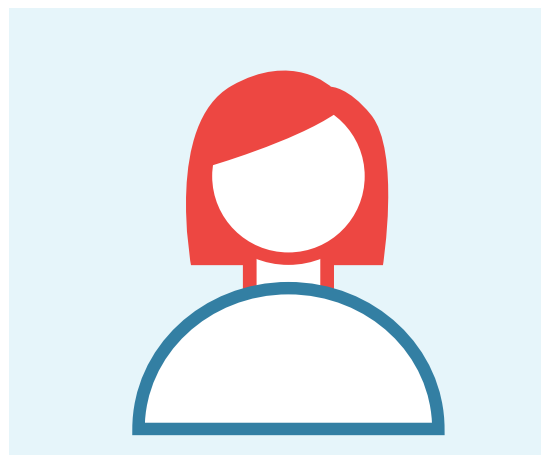
Research activities

AWTTC undertakes research and development to evaluate AWMSG's work. Over the last year, we have:

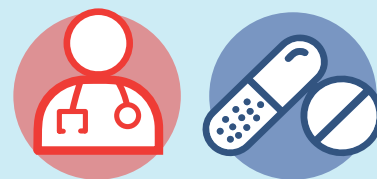
1. published seven peer-reviewed articles:
 - [Public awareness in Wales of the UK Yellow Card Scheme](#)
 - [AWMSG's medicines optimisation activities](#)
 - [Adverse drug reactions to herbal medicine](#)
 - [Dose-response relationships in aluminium toxicity](#)
 - [Medicines prescribed by non-medical independent prescribers](#)
 - [Impact of a National Reporting Indicator on reporting of adverse drug reactions](#)
 - [The effects of apixaban on clot characteristics in atrial fibrillation](#)
2. contributed to the World Health Organization [manual for investigating suspected outbreaks of illnesses of possible chemical etiology](#)
3. presented [two posters](#) at the Prescribing and Research in Medicines Management Annual Scientific Meeting, and [seven posters](#) at the International Congress of the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicology Virtual meeting.

One of our senior pharmacists has been awarded a [First into Research Fellowship](#) by Research Capacity Building Collaboration Wales (RCBCWales) through Health and Care Research Wales, Welsh Government, to look at ways of improving horizon scanning to support patient access to medicines in Wales.

For details of all previous AWTTC publications please see [Our Research](#) page.



Maximising medicines access and efficiency



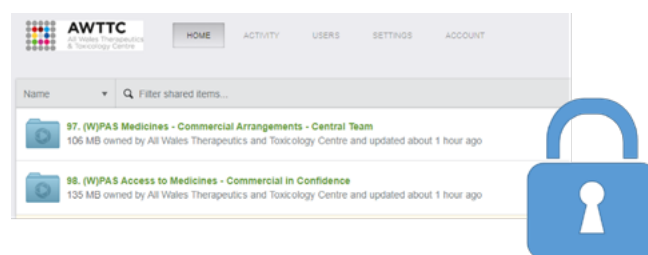
Previous AWMSG Annual Reports have summarised the work accomplished through the All Wales Patient Access Scheme Monitoring and Implementation – an “Invest to Save” two-year project. AW TTC’s Medicine Access and Efficiency project managers have continued to build upon this successful work.

The Blueteq Patient Access Scheme Administration System (PASAS) is used by the project managers to centrally monitor the simple discount patient access schemes (PASs), creating monthly exception reports for the health boards and trust. Highlighting noncompliance and potential missed discount each month lets the health boards and trust engage with the pharmaceutical companies early to recoup any potential loss, with support from the project managers where needed.

AW TTC’s project managers’ activities include:

- Collaborating with the National Procurement Lead Pharmacist for Wales to enable primary care arrangements allowing patients access to medicines closer to their home, and supporting Welsh Government’s policy to move services out of hospital and into communities.
- Ensuring health boards and the trust in Wales have access to accurate and up-to-date PAS information as early as possible, through AW TTC’s online secure repository the VAULT, to share confidential details,

and to support them to meet the New Treatment Fund compliance timeframe.



- Being key members of the Commercial Medicines Access Team (CMAT) – a multi-organisational team providing a single point of contact for the health boards and trust in Wales, and pharmaceutical companies, to support timely access to medicines that are associated with a commercial arrangement.
- Developing and delivering quarterly financial summaries for the health boards and trust in Wales.
- Encouraging early engagement from pharmaceutical companies for commercial arrangements, to ensure equitable and timely access to medicines for patients in Wales when the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) FAD is published.
- Centralising processes in relation to commercial arrangements associated with the availability of medicines recommended by NICE and AWMSG, where possible, to alleviate any potential administrative burden on the health boards and trust.



- Presenting supporting information, and planned schedules, to the pharmaceutical industry and colleagues in the health boards and trust. For example, there were six AWMSC Open Days between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

One of the Medicine Access and Efficiency project managers was seconded on a part time basis in August 2020 to help develop and implement the WHSSC Blueteq HCD system, which is now live. This system will support NHS Wales to prescribe and manage the ever-increasing complexities associated with these high-cost therapies.

WHSSC Blueteq HCD system

The Blueteq High Cost Drugs (HCD) software programme was procured for Wales by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) and Welsh Government in 2018, to support the implementation of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) commissioned through WHSSC, as supported by the ATMP Programme Board.



AWTTC highlights the role IT tools have in maximising evidence-based prescribing



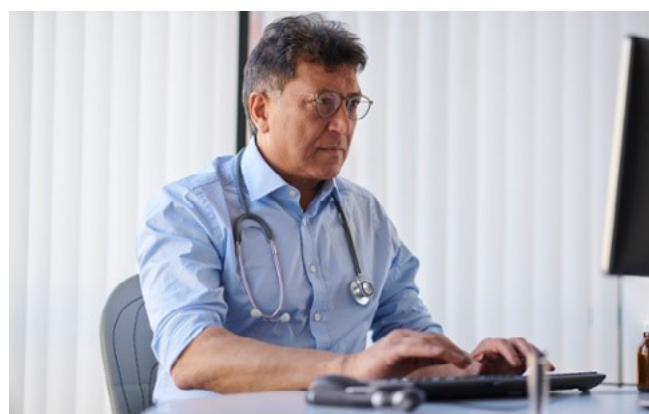
AWTTC is collaborating with the providers of ScriptSwitch® and OptimiseRx® to highlight AWMSG's key prescribing messages to prescribers in Wales. ScriptSwitch® and OptimiseRx® are two IT solutions available in Wales, which show alternative treatment, guidance and safety issues, based on the best available evidence, at the point of prescribing.

ScriptSwitch®

In the first set of ScriptSwitch® messages, AWTTC worked to give health boards the option to import messages supporting the [Low Value for Prescribing in NHS Wales](#) initiative for local GP practices to see. The second set of messages support the [NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan](#) and [National Prescribing Indicator – Decarbonisation of Inhalers](#).

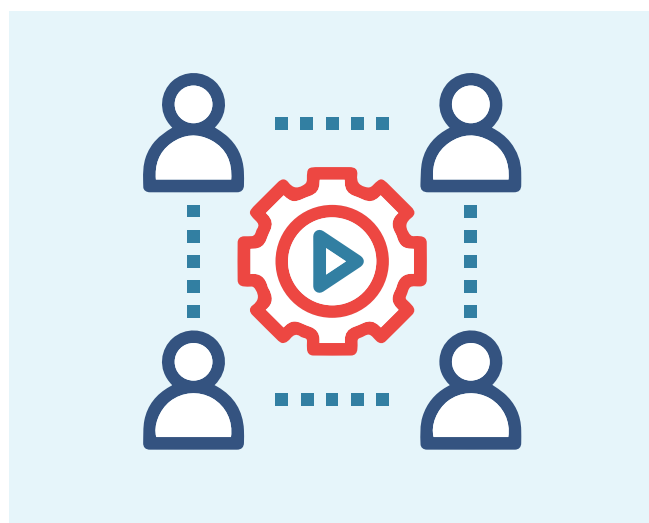
OptimiseRx®

Work with OptimiseRx® involved developing messages to support AWMSG's [National Prescribing Indicators - Prescribing Safety Indicators](#). A message prompting the prescriber to undertake a review of the patient's medication is triggered, based on treatment information in the patient's record. We expect that identifying patients who are at high risk of adverse drug reactions and medicines-related harm can help problems to be identified and addressed before patient harm occurs.



Safe and effective prescribing

These developments will support AWMSG's advice and help GP practices and health boards to move towards National Prescribing Indicator thresholds, as part of the approach to support safe and efficient prescribing. Clear, consistent and evidence-based national prescribing messages will promote safe and effective prescribing.



Patient and Public Interest Group (PAPIG) meetings



PAPIG meetings were resumed in July 2021, having been suspended since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings were held virtually and reached out to a wider audience; people from all areas of Wales and other parts of the UK attended. We were pleased to see the familiar faces of the regular PAPIG members and to welcome many new ones. Everyone is encouraged to share views, ask questions and make suggestions throughout the meetings and to give their feedback.

The theme for the first virtual PAPIG meeting in July 2021 was communication and engagement. AWTTTC staff summarised the work that AWTTTC and AWMSG had been doing to support patients and NHS Wales during the pandemic. The AWMSG Communications and Engagement Strategy was shared. The speakers outlined the importance of patient and public involvement in different aspects of AWMSG's work. [Click here for more details and a video of the July 2021 PAPIG meeting.](#)

The November PAPIG meeting focused on patient data. A representative from Digital Health and Care Wales gave an overview on how patient data are collected, used and stored by NHS Wales and how they use data to inform patient care and future planning. There were several talks on how AWTTTC and AWMSG use data to help achieve safer and better prescribing for the people of Wales. One attendee shared their thoughts about the use



This was my first PAPIG meeting. It was enlightening and inspiring on how well you engage the patient. Interesting and varied speakers who avoided speaking jargon which is easy to fall into when you know your subject well.

GUTS UK



The meeting was very good, thank you. All of the presentations were interesting, including those that were less directly relevant to our work at the Psoriasis Association.



of their data from the perspective of a patient. [Click here for more details and a video of the November 2021 PAPIG meeting.](#)

The theme for the March 2022 meeting was participation. Representatives from two patient organisations shared their experiences of being involved in medicines access processes. Lay members are involved in the decision-making and provide the patient and public perspective at committee meetings. Two current lay members talked about the importance of their role. There was general discussion on how we could better reach out to more people about lay member opportunities. [Click here for more details and a video of the March 2022 PAPIG meeting.](#)



It was really good to gain clarity and information about AWTTC, what they did and to hear from other third sector members using the co production offered.

Bowel Cancer UK



Patient and Public Interest Group Meeting

18 March 2022 10:00-12:30

- AWTTC update including appraisals and consultations in progress**
- Medicine access in Wales - the importance of the patient voice**
 - How the patient experience informs the HTA process
 - Improving the patient and carer's voice for One Wales Medicines
- Unlicensed medicines - what do patients need to know?**
- Getting involved in the decision-making process in Wales - the importance of committee lay members**
 - How lay members are integral to our work
 - Overview of the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) process and being a lay member on IPFR panels

Best Practice Days



AWTTC hosted two virtual Best Practice Days in 2021–2022, with attendance open to all committee members and prescribers in Wales. These online events focused on sharing some of the excellent medicines optimisation work going on in Wales. They also gave attendees the opportunity to ask any questions. Here is a summary of the presentations that were given at each event.

April 2021

- A Consultant in Acute Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB), presented on behalf of the penicillin allergy de-labelling (PADL) group. Their talk covered how penicillin allergy can be investigated, how most penicillin allergies are unsubstantiated, and they gave an overview of a pilot scheme to develop a local protocol for penicillin allergy de-labelling in Cardiff and Vale UHB.
- Integrated Clinical Pharmacists at Swansea Bay UHB presented on behalf of the medicines management team for care homes. Their presentation described how the team have been working to bring pharmacy services closer to care home residents, and how improvements to medication reviews of residents have driven improvements in line with AWMSG's National Prescribing Indicators.

See [videos of the presentations on the AWTTC website](#).

October 2021

- A Practice Pharmacist presented how their GP practice has changed the way it manages chronic diseases. The initiative centres around an annual medication review triggered by a patient's date of birth. It has resulted in timely, efficient, prudent, holistic and high-quality medication reviews, involving the whole practice team.
- The Head of Pharmacy, Primary Care and Community Services at Betsi Cadwaladr UHB talked about how their team identified inconsistencies with sodium valproate safety measures in primary care across their health board, and how they developed a programme to try to manage the outstanding risks. The presentation included the history of sodium valproate, the audit they developed, their communication and education strategy, and the many challenges around this successful initiative.

See [videos of the presentations on the AWTTC website](#).



AWMSG Open Days

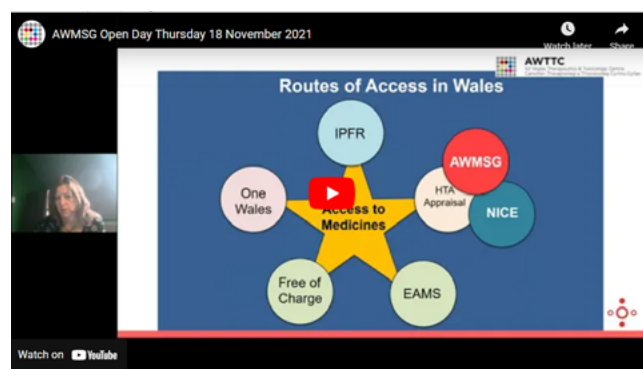


After the success of the March 2021 AWMSG Open Day, AWTTTC delivered six Open Day sessions between April 2021 and March 2022, with support from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Thirteen speakers delivered ten topics which attracted more than 300 industry professionals.

Topics included AWMSG's health technology assessment process; the medicines optimisation framework; the national prescribing indicators; the One Wales Medicines Process; market access in Wales; and the importance of early engagement.

See [videos of the presentations on the AWTTTC website](#).

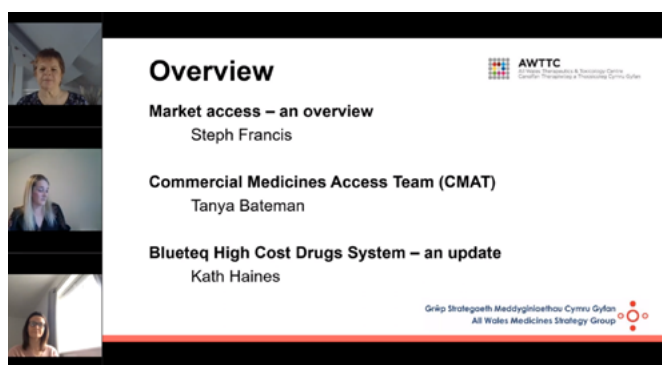
Our Open Day programme has received very positive feedback, and AWTTTC looks forward to delivering two more Open Days during 2022.



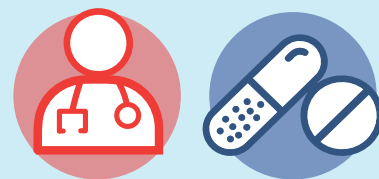
Feedback from March 2022 Open Day:

The questions at the start were good to identify individually where there were gaps in my knowledge.

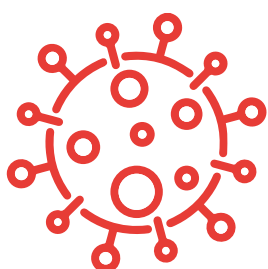
Great session, presenters and format! Thank you.



Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



AWTTC continued to respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our operational plan accommodated the following additional work priorities.



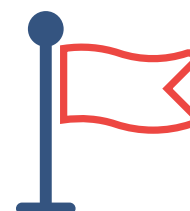
Maintained the COVID-19 Therapeutic Hub on the AWTTC website



Maintained the AWTTC Vault where Welsh Government and key NHS staff shared sensitive and critical information related to COVID-19



Monitored and reported on hospital pharmacy critical medicine stocks, ensuring adequate supplies were available



Continued toxicovigilance work in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Public Health England regarding enquiries relating to COVID-19 that may provide public health 'flags' or alerts



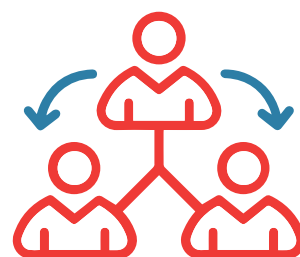
Enabled the use of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence COVID-19 rapid interim guidelines in NHS Wales



Provided a clinical service to advise on COVID-19 vaccine-related adverse drug reaction enquiries from across Wales



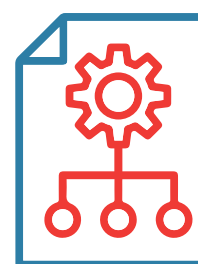
Collaborated with colleagues in the National Poisons Information Service to implement a procedure to minimise hospital admissions related to poisoning, to ease the burden on emergency departments and ambulance services



Input into the UK-wide clinical stakeholder group and Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy for medicines used to treat COVID-19 infection



Provided bespoke advice to the service on patients who may have benefitted from treatment but were excluded from clinical trials



Involved in the RECOVERY trial and a collaborative project into COVID-19 research



Co-ordinated the All Wales Free of Charge Medicine Supply Policy which enabled interim recommendations by NHS England to be utilised in NHS Wales



Liaised with pharmaceutical companies to ensure that NHS Wales benefitted from the commercial arrangements being offered to NHS England

AWTTC will continue to support AWMSG, NHS Wales and Welsh Government throughout the recovery phase.

Medicines optimisation

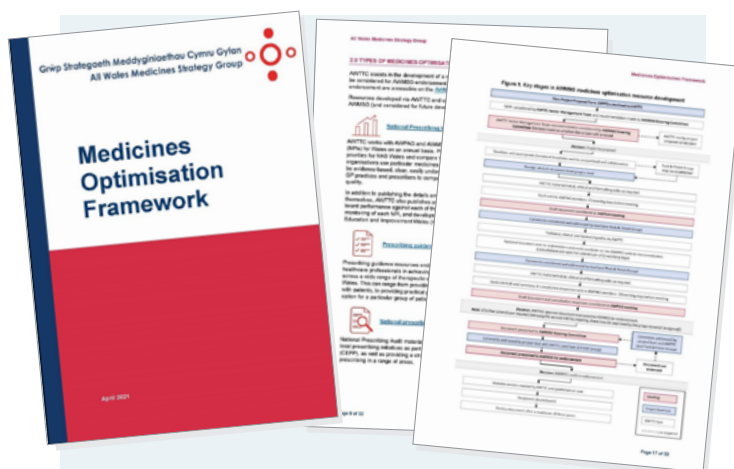
Medicines optimisation focuses on patients and outcomes rather than processes and systems. It aims to support healthcare professionals in advising patients how to obtain the best outcomes from the medicines they are taking. This may involve stopping some medicines or starting others, to make sure a patient is taking the safest medicine that works best to treat their condition. Healthcare professionals will also advise patients how best to adhere to a treatment. To help patients and prescribers achieve the best outcomes from medicines, AWMMSG publishes prescribing guidance and resources, as well as reports on prescribing performance.

Medicines optimisation framework

We published this framework in April 2021. It details the processes behind the development of resources for medicines optimisation that are endorsed by AWMMSG and published on the AWTTTC website. The framework describes how new projects are proposed, and explains how these proposals are considered. It also defines the related processes of:

- consultation;
- review of resources after their publication; and
- acknowledgement of resources by AWMMSG, which is distinct from the full endorsement process.

We compiled the framework to encourage engagement from all stakeholders: from proposing new projects and engaging in our consultations, through to using and giving feedback on our resources after publication. [You can see the full framework on the AWTTTC website.](#)



Prescribing guidance and resources

We have developed and published a range of prescribing guidance and resources during April 2021 to March 2022.

Initial clinical management of adult smokers in secondary care

This guidance aims to inform and guide healthcare staff in NHS Wales about how to start nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to manage nicotine withdrawal in adults who smoke and are admitted to hospital (secondary care). The document explains how to support: patients who wish to start a quit attempt; patients who do not wish to start a quit attempt but want to have NRT to manage nicotine withdrawal while in hospital; as well as outpatients, patients' families and friends, and hospital staff. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTTTC website.](#)

Material to support appropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics across Wales

This educational pack aims to support the appropriate prescribing of hypnotic and

anxiolytic medicines across Wales. It provides healthcare professionals with a practical approach for starting and reviewing the prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics. It also includes examples of support materials for prescribers and patients which can be used or adapted for this purpose.

We anticipate that adopting the 'best practice' examples presented in this pack will help to reduce the long term prescribing of these medicines. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)



All Wales advice on sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors in type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease

This guidance was developed to support healthcare professionals in prescribing SGLT-2 inhibitors for patients who have type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease. The document includes a comprehensive review of the evidence for using SGLT-2 inhibitors in type 2 diabetes mellitus in relation to cardiovascular and renal outcomes. It also outlines prescribing recommendations on the role of SGLT-2 inhibitors in this patient

population, and includes a one-page evidence summary for healthcare professionals when choosing which SGLT-2 inhibitor to prescribe. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)

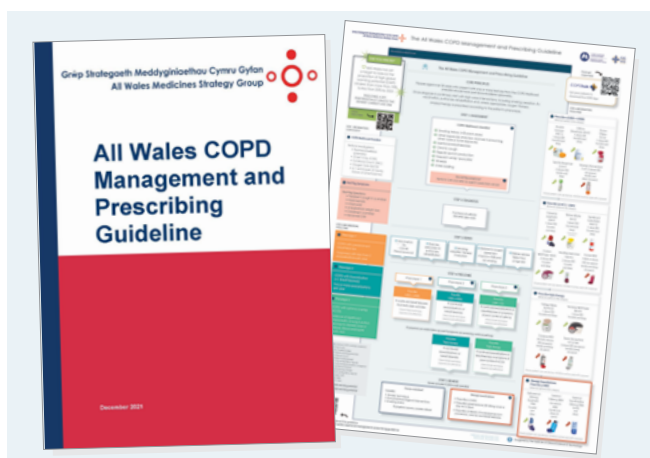


Tramadol educational resources

These resource materials aim to support the appropriate prescribing of tramadol in NHS Wales by providing healthcare professionals with audit materials to review the prescribing of tramadol to manage pain. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)

All Wales management and prescribing guidelines – asthma in adults and COPD

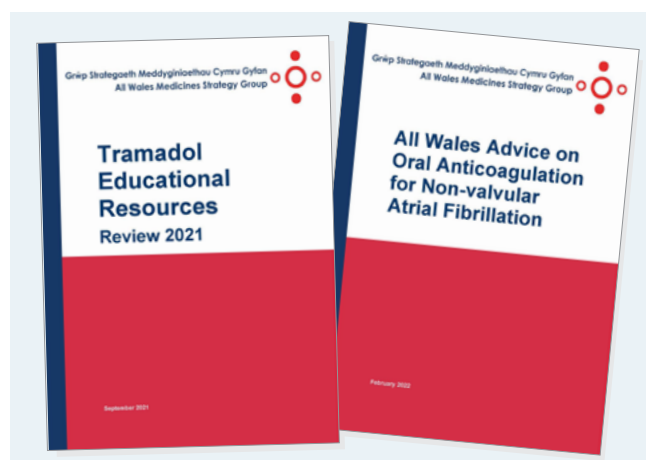
These guidelines were first published with the aim of reducing variation in inhaler prescribing across Wales. The guidelines were updated in 2021 to encourage prescribers to consider the decarbonisation agenda of NHS Wales. This includes recommending the preferential prescribing of dry powder inhalers (DPIs) rather than metered dose inhalers (MDIs), because of the significantly reduced environmental impact associated with the use of DPIs. You can access the full [asthma](#) and [COPD](#) guidelines on the AWTC website.



All Wales advice on oral anticoagulation for non-valvular atrial fibrillation

We updated this guideline in February 2022 to reflect changes to NICE's guidance. The guideline focuses on the treatment of non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf) with oral anticoagulants. It also incorporates a risk/benefit assessment tool, and a one-page summary for healthcare professionals choosing a direct oral anticoagulant for these patients. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)

pathogen and antimicrobial susceptibility data in Wales. The guidelines aim to give a simple, effective, economical and empirical approach to treating common infections; and to minimise the emergence of bacterial resistance. [You can access the full guidelines on the AWTC website.](#)



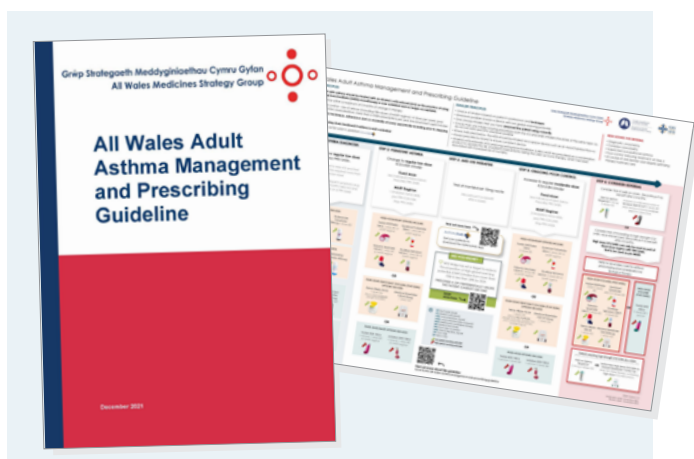
CEPP National Audit - focus on antibiotic prescribing

Using the correct antibiotics only when needed, at the correct dose and for the correct duration, is vital to help reduce antibiotic resistance.

These audits aim to:

- promote antibiotic prescribing in accordance with existing guidelines (including the Primary care antimicrobial guidelines endorsed by AWMSG); and
- support clinicians with quality improvement by promoting review of antimicrobial prescribing.

[You can access the full audit and digital templates on the AWTC website.](#)



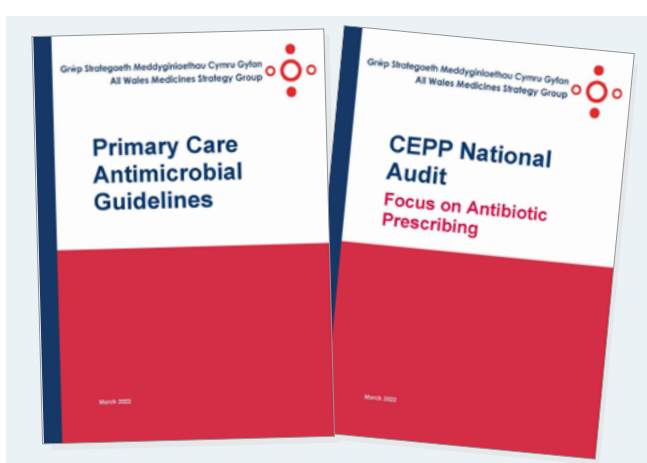
Primary care antimicrobial guidelines

These guidelines were developed to give comprehensive advice on the antimicrobial treatment of common bacterial infections in primary care, taking into account local

Management of *Clostridioides difficile* infection in Wales

This guidance provides an evidence-based,

accessible, antimicrobial prescribing strategy for managing *Clostridioides difficile* infection in adults. It presents updated learning from previous and current UK guidelines and peer-reviewed publications. It is intended to supplement current guidance, and does not replace NICE's guidance. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)



Management of recurrent symptomatic urinary tract infection in adult women

This guideline is aimed at all community and non-specialist medical, nursing and pharmacy staff involved in prescribing to treat recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) in non-pregnant, non-catheterised women aged 16 years and older. The intention is to provide primary care practitioners with practical guidance on minimising the risk of UTIs, as well as giving non-antimicrobial treatment options. [You can access the full guideline on the AWTC website.](#)

Acknowledged resources

AWMSG has acknowledged the following as examples of good practice and aligning with the aims of the AWMSG Five-Year Strategy 2018–2023:

- Antimicrobial wound dressings (AWDs) - Statement, recommendations and guidance (Evidence Based Procurement Board)
- Cellulitis guidelines for people with lymphoedema/chronic oedema in NHS Wales (Lymphoedema Wales Clinical Network)
- Heart failure in Wales – A parallel approach (Welsh Heart Failure Expert Reference Group).

You can find out more about all of the [resources acknowledged by AWMSG on the AWTC website.](#)



Prescribing monitoring and analysis

AWMSG monitors and analyses prescribing data to benchmark performance and drive improvements in the NHS in Wales.

National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs)

Where there are clear safety, stewardship or efficiency messages that can indicate good practice, prescribers often find it useful to benchmark themselves against others. This could be at health board, cluster or practice level. To facilitate this, AWMSG believe NPIs to be very useful tools to promote rational prescribing across NHS Wales, introducing the first set of NPIs in 2003.

NPIs are used to highlight therapeutic priorities for NHS Wales and compare the ways in which different prescribers and organisations use particular medicines or groups of medicines. Prescribing indicators are evidence-based, clear and easily understood, and allow health boards and trusts, primary care clusters, GP practices and prescribers to compare current practice against an agreed standard of quality. The NPIs address efficiency as well as safety and quality, and targets are challenging but achievable, and applicable at practice level.

NPIs 2021–2022

Because of workload pressures in the NHS associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPIs endorsed for 2020–2021 were carried over to 2021–2022. These 15 NPIs, endorsed by AWMSG, focus on 9 areas of prescribing of medicines and the reporting of adverse events (through Yellow Cards). The NPIs focus on 3 priority areas (analgesics; anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation; and antimicrobial stewardship),

which are supported by indicators grouped in the domains of 'safety' and 'efficiency'.

NPIs 2021–2022 – Priority areas and supporting domains

Priority Areas

Analgesics
Anticoagulants in atrial fibrillation
Antimicrobial stewardship

Supporting Domains

Safety

Prescribing safety indicators
Proton pump inhibitors
Hypnotics and anxiolytics
Yellow cards

Efficiency

Best value biological medicines
Insulin
Low value for prescribing

NPI monitoring

AWTTC compiles a quarterly report analysing the performance of each health board against the current set of NPIs. You can view these reports on the [AWTTC website](#). The potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prescribing and Yellow Card reporting should be considered when reviewing the data in these reports.



The [Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis \(SPIRA\)](#) is updated quarterly with NPI data for health boards, clusters and individual GP practices in Wales, giving a more detailed view of local prescribing. This interactive programme for comparative analysis of prescribing data can be accessed by users on the NHS Wales Network. It also includes AWTTTC's decarbonisation dashboard ([see Page 18](#)).

NPIs 2022–2023

The NPIs for 2022–2023 were endorsed by AWMMSG and published in January 2022. The Supporting Information for Prescribers and Healthcare Professionals was endorsed and published in February 2022. Both documents are available on the [AWTTC website](#).

For 2022–2023, the NPIs focus on 4 priority areas, with the addition of 'decarbonisation of inhalers'. An additional indicator focusing on 'high-strength opioids' is included in the priority area of 'analgesics'. Another key change for 2022–2023 is the removal of the indicators for 'proton pump inhibitors' and 'long acting insulin analogues'.



Health Technology Assessment

AWMSG advises Welsh Government on whether new medicines should be made available for use in NHS Wales. New medicines are appraised to consider:

- how well they work in the real world (clinical effectiveness);
- how cost-effective they are; and
- which patients they would benefit the most.

Advice issued between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022



**21 medicines
appraised**



**20 medicines
recommended**



**4 medicines
recommended for
'optimised' use***



**1 medicine not
recommended**



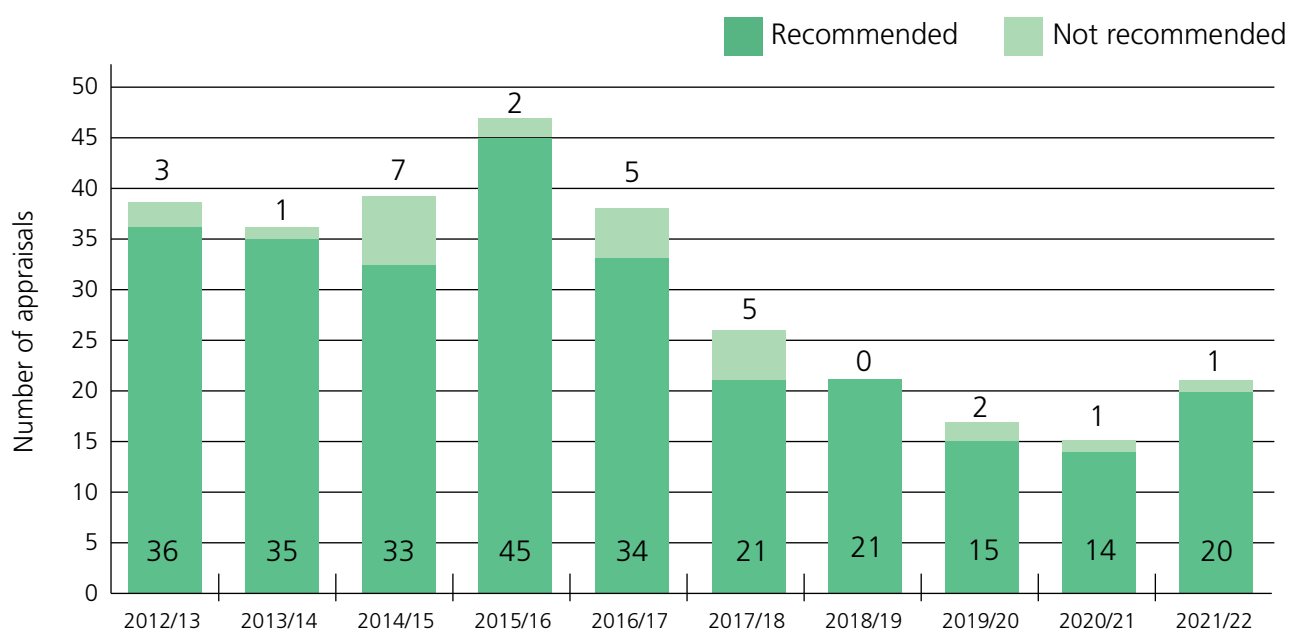
**17 Statements of
Advice issued on non-
appraised medicines
to NHS Wales**



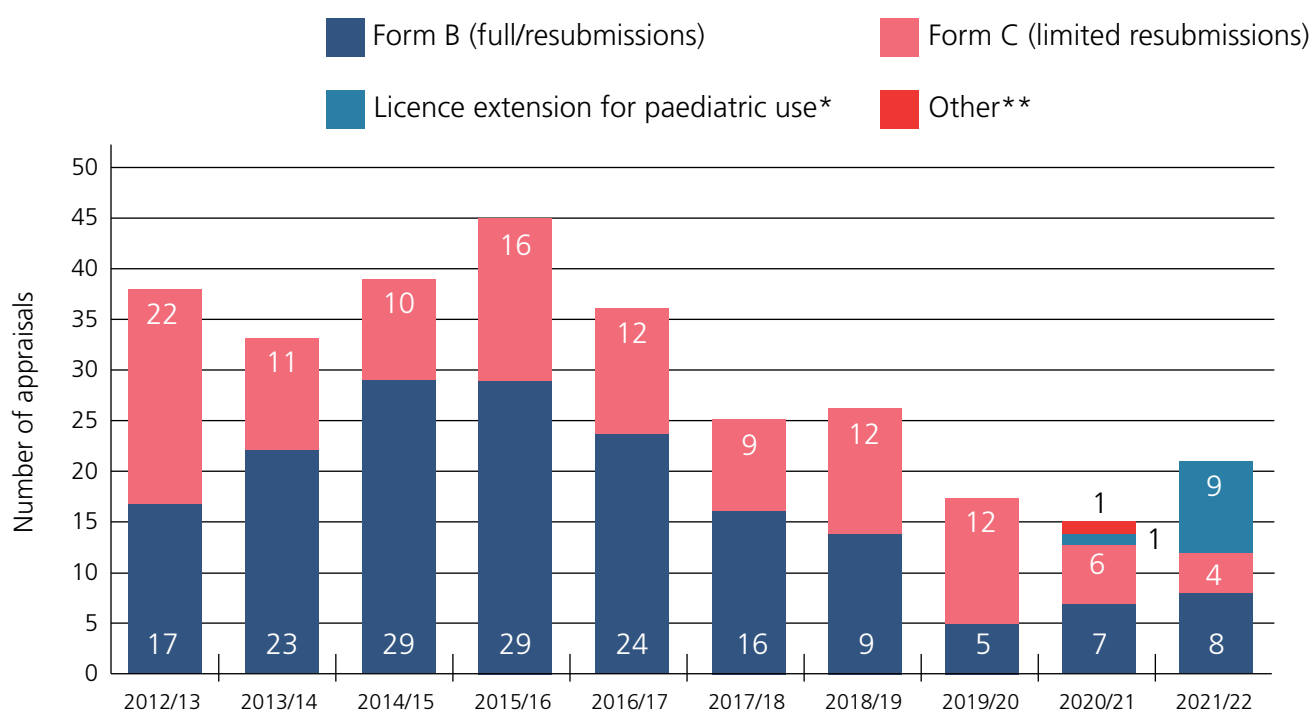
**A total of 38
medicines on which
advice provided to
NHS Wales**

* Medicine recommended for use in a smaller subset of patients than originally stated by the marketing authorisation. These medicines are also referred to in Wales as being recommended for 'restricted use'.

Number of medicines recommended and not recommended



Type of submission for appraisal



*Process introduced in 2021

**Reassessment of emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil

Developments in the appraisal process

The new Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway (ILAP)

- In October 2021, AWTTTC became a partner in the ILAP initiative, working with colleagues in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC).
- ILAP is a unique UK regulatory and technology assessment initiative that aims to support safe, early, efficient and financially sustainable patient access to innovative medicines.
- It involves unprecedented collaboration between the MHRA and UK Health Technology Assessment agencies, with potential to align regulatory and access requirements creating more efficient processes and less duplication.

AWTTTC representation on ILAP ensures the needs of patients within Wales are identified and considered early in the process.

Read more about the [Innovative Licensing and Access Pathway](#).

AWMSG process for appraising licence extensions for paediatric use

AWMSG's process for appraising licence extensions for use in people younger than 18 years of age, was launched in March 2021. Since implementation until the end of March 2022, a total of ten submissions for paediatric licence extensions have been processed through this route. All were recommended for use including two which had previously

been issued with a statement of advice. The process has proven to provide a simpler and quicker route from submission to AWMSG recommendation for medicines meeting the criteria, therefore bringing benefits to children and adolescents in Wales with timely and equitable access to medicines already routinely available to adults in Wales.

Further details of the process can be found on [AWTTTC's website](#).

Revised process for review of final appraisal recommendations

To ensure that AWMSG's recommendations remain valid, final appraisal recommendations (FARs) published since October 2011 have been reviewed every three years. As of March 2022, 192 medicines have been reviewed at least once by AWTTTC.

This has been achieved by gathering information and using a checklist to identify any significant changes to evidence that might affect the original FAR.

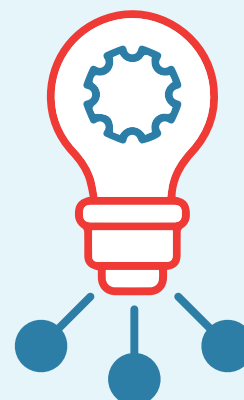
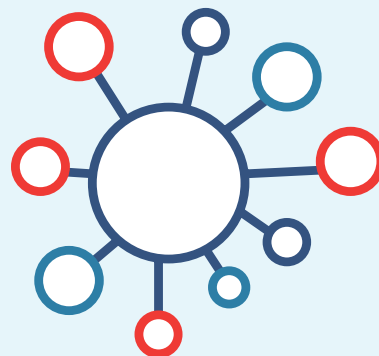
To create efficiencies in the appraisal process, the review process was changed in November 2021 to apply a category system at the first review point of an AWMSG FAR (three years after first publication). This allows a more targeted approach to those medicines most likely to benefit from further investigation or reassessment, and helps to determine which medicines can move to a static list.

Working with patient organisations, clinical experts and industry to secure an appraisal for a rare disease medicine in Wales

Nitisinone was licensed as the first treatment option for alkaptonuria (AKU), a rare genetic disorder, in October 2020. The AKU society contacted AWTTTC to highlight the unmet need for patients in Wales, noting nitisinone was available for patients in England through national commissioning. Due to the impending licensing of generics, nitisinone's marketing authorisation (MA) holder was unable to submit for health technology assessment (HTA) appraisal.

AWTTTC collaborated with the AKU society, clinical experts and nitisinone's MA holder to evaluate the best available evidence in the public domain. This allowed a robust assessment through HTA, and a decision on routine funding for patients. An additional stage in AWMSG's process to assess medicines for rare diseases considers the perspectives of clinicians and patients, which facilitates discussion of wider societal issues. AWMSG members take these broader considerations into account when appraising a medicine for a rare disease.

In September 2021, AWMSG gave a positive recommendation for nitisinone, which was ratified by Welsh Government.

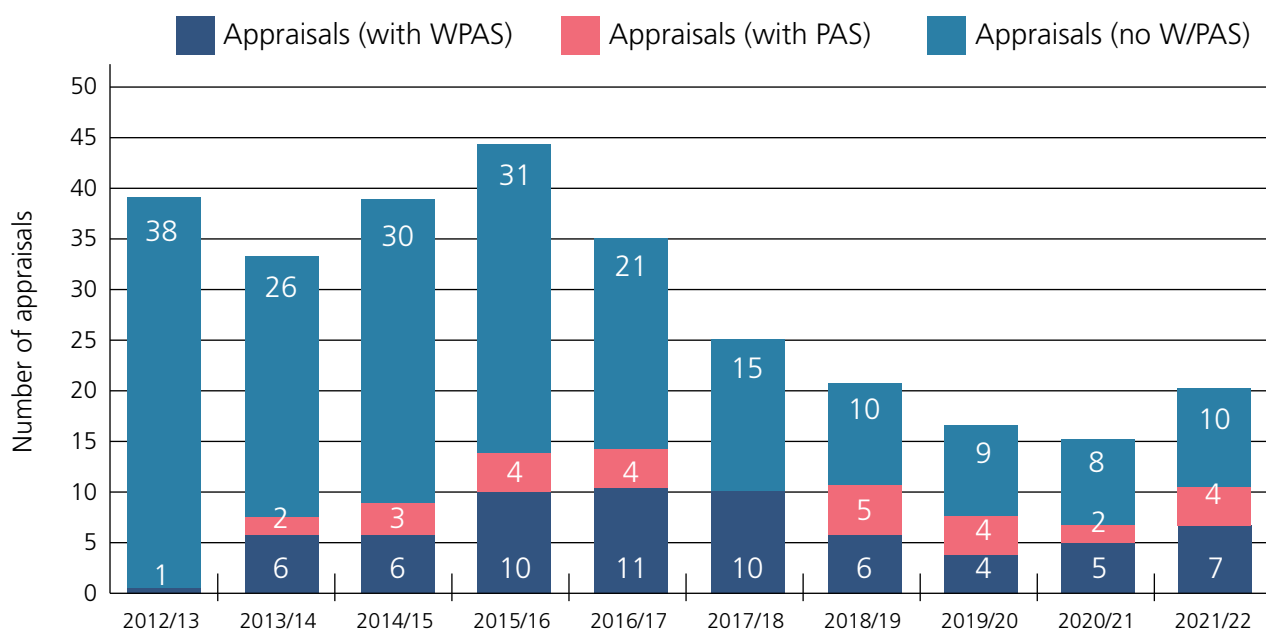


Wales Patient Access Scheme (WPAS)

Between 2011 and 31 March 2022, a total of 80 WPAS proposals were submitted for review. The largest proportion (65%) of WPAS submissions have been for simple schemes (n = 52), with 45 of these considered feasible to implement by the Patient Access Scheme Wales Group (PASWG), 6 resubmitted as complex schemes and 1 scheme withdrawn from the review process. Up to 31 March 2022, 28 complex WPAS proposals were submitted, with 19 of these considered possible for implementation by PASWG. Of the remaining 9 complex submissions, 3 were not considered feasible, and 6 were withdrawn. Up to 31 March 2022, the inclusion of a WPAS in the company submission to the AWMSG appraisal process has enabled patient access to 55 medicines in Wales.

Ongoing review and development of the WPAS submission and implementation process, along with monitoring of schemes to confirm effective working and maximum financial return, is necessary to guarantee the greatest efficiencies for NHS Wales, while still ensuring timely access to clinically effective and cost-effective medicines for patients.

Appraisals with a Patient Access Scheme



Membership

AWMSG

Post	Member	Deputy
Chair	Prof Iolo Doull	
Consultant in Public Health Medicine	Prof Stephen Monaghan	Awaiting nomination
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee	Ms Eleri Schiavone	Dr Helen Fardy
Health Economist	Prof Dyfrig Hughes	Prof Deborah Fitzsimmons Prof Pippa Anderson
ABPI (Wales)	Ms Kate Parrish Mr Tommy Price Mr Farhan Mughal	Attendance is rotated between the three named individuals
Lay representative	Mr Cliff Jones	Awaiting nomination
Lay representative	Ms Claire James	Awaiting nomination
Community Pharmacist	Mr Stefan Fec (to February 2022)	Mr Dylan Jones
Medical Director	Dr Jim McGuigan	Awaiting nomination
GP with prescribing lead role	Dr Jeremy Black	Awaiting nomination
Managed Sector Pharmacist	Ms Alison Hughes	Ms Rafia Jamil
Managed Sector Pharmacist	Mr John Terry	Mr Stuart Rees
Director of Finance	Mr Hywel Pullen	Mr James Leaves
Senior Nurse	Mrs Louise Williams (to February 2022)	Mrs Mandy James
Other healthcare professions eligible to prescribe not already represented	Mr Aled Falvey (to August 2021) Mrs Cathy Wynne (from September 2021)	Mrs Cathy Wynne (to August 2021) Mr Karl Jackson (from September 2021)
Clinical Pharmacologist	Dr Balwinder Bajaj (to January 2022) Dr Alison Thomas (from February 2022)	Dr Alison Thomas (to January 2022) Dr Manjeet Singh (from February 2022)
Hospital Consultant	Dr Samantha Cox	Dr Satish Kumar (to January 2022)

AWPAG

Post and discipline	Member	Health board/trust	Alternate
Chair, Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist	Dr Laurence Gray	Cardiff and Vale	Mrs Clare Clement
Doctor from each health board reflecting different roles			
General Practitioner	Dr Rebecca McGee	Aneurin Bevan	Dr David Pyle (Powys)
Hospital Consultant/General Practitioner	Awaiting nomination	Betsi Cadwaladr	
Hospital Consultant/General Practitioner	Awaiting nomination	Cwm Taf Morgannwg	
Hospital Consultant	Dr Laurence Gray	Cardiff and Vale	
General Practitioner	Dr Richard Brown	Hywel Dda	
Hospital Consultant	Dr Anders Skarsten (to Aug 21)	Powys	
General Practitioner	Dr Phil Cox	Swansea Bay	
Hospital Consultant	Awaiting nomination	Velindre	
Pharmacist from each health board/trust reflecting different roles			
Prescribing Advisor	Mr Hywel Jones	Aneurin Bevan	Ms Emily Knight
Pharmacist	Awaiting nomination	Betsi Cadwaladr	Mr Ben Woodhouse
Pharmacist	Mrs Clare Clement	Cardiff and Vale	Miss Karen May (to Mar 22)
Pharmacist	Mrs Helen Davies Ms Kate Spittle (to Aug 21)	Cwm Taf Morgannwg	Mrs Avril Tucker
Prescribing Advisor	Mrs Hazel Hopkins	Hywel Dda	Mrs Sue Beach Ms Jenny Pugh-Jones
Community Pharmacist	Mr Dylan Jones (to Feb 22)	Powys	Mr Adrian Byrne Mr Sudhir Sehwat (Community)
Pharmacist	Mr Darren Smith	Swansea Bay	Awaiting nomination
Chief Pharmacist	Mrs Bethan Tranter	Velindre	Mrs Sophie Harding
Medicines Safety Pharmacist			
	Dr Lynette James	All Wales	
Lay member			
	Mr David Barnard		Mr Alan Meudell
Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe			
	Mrs Amy Williams Mr Robert Caine (to Jan 22)		Awaiting nomination
Nurse			
	Mrs Sarah Davies		Ms Sabrina Owen (to Mar 22)
Public Health Wales			
	Ms Rosemary Allgeier		Mrs Sian Evans
ABPI Wales Industry Group			
	Ms Sue Knights		Ms Rachel Jenkins
Non-voting members			
Director Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry Wales	Dr Rick Greville		
Director British Generic Manufacturers Association	Mr Paul Fleming		Ms Carol Blount
Welsh Government	To be notified of representation before each meeting		
AWTTC Board Member and AWMSG Representative	To be notified of representation before each meeting		

NMG

Post	Member	Deputy
Chair	Dr James Coulson	
Vice Chair	Dr Emma Mason	
Pharmacist 1	Mr Alan Clatworthy (from May 2022) Ms Suzanne Davies (to March 2022)	Eleri Phillips
Pharmacist 2	Mrs Sue Beach	Nomination received
Pharmacist 3	Mrs Teena Grenier	Awaiting nomination
Doctor 1 - Clinical Pharmacologist	Dr Manjeet Singh	Awaiting nomination
Doctor 2 - Hospital Consultant	Awaiting nomination	Awaiting nomination
Doctor 3 - General Practitioner	Dr Chalini Lankage (from April 2022)	Dr Avkash Das Jain
Professions allied to medicine or eligible to prescribe	Mr Karl Jackson Ms Cathy Wynne (to October 2021)	Awaiting nomination
Public Health/Epidemiologist	Awaiting nomination	Awaiting nomination
Health Economist	Professor Deborah Fitzsimmons	Dr Catrin Plumpton
ABPI Member	Mr Steven Lister Mr Sandeep Kiri Ms Holly Cranmer	Attendance is rotated between the three named individuals
Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee	Dr Andrew Champion	Dr Sian Lewis
Lay Member	Mr William Anthony Esmond (from March 2022) Mr Christopher Palmer (to March 2022) Awaiting nomination	Awaiting nomination
Nurse	Mr Neil Thomas	Mr Andrew Davies (from April 2022) Mrs Susan Newport Dr Carolyn Middleton (to July 2021)



AWTTC

All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

Published by:

All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
The Routledge Academic Centre
University Hospital Llandough
Vale of Glamorgan
CF64 2XX

On behalf of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group

All enquiries should be directed to:

Mrs Ruth Lang
Senior Liaison Manager
Email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk
Telephone: 029 218 26900

Please note information in this document is correct at the time of print but may be subject to change. For latest information, please visit awttc.nhs.wales (English) and cttcg.gig.cymru (Welsh). English Twitter account [@AWTTComms](https://twitter.com/AWTTComms); Welsh Twitter account [@AWTTCymraeg](https://twitter.com/AWTTCymraeg).