

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2005 AT 9.30 AM At the Boardroom, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Cardiff

Members

Mrs Nicola John (Acting Chairman)
Mr Trevor Batt
Dr Mark Daniels
Dr Charlie Danino
Dr Martin Duerden
Mr William Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Dr Thomas Lau
Dr Tessa Lewis
Mr Ken Nazareth
Mrs Delyth Simons
Mr John Terry
Mrs Judith Vincent

In attendance

Mrs Carolyn Poulter (Welsh Assembly Government)
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Action

- 1 *Welcome***
The Chairman welcomed Mr Trevor Batt, newly appointed deputy member for Mr Paul Gimson, to the meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) and welcomed Mrs Carolyn Poulter, Welsh Assembly Government representative, back from maternity leave.
- 2 *Apologies***
Dr Robert Bracchi
Dr Stephen Griffiths
Dr Jonathan Jones
Mrs Carol Kirkham
Miss Tracy Parry
Dr Gillian Todd
- 3 *Declarations of interest***
Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda. There were none.
- 4 *Minutes of previous meeting***
The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2004 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

5 ***Matters arising***

Mr Bill Duffield had enquired whether, in light of new evidence, AWPAG could review and update, at an all-Wales level, the advice issued by NICE on Cox II inhibitors and make a recommendation to AWMSG to issue interim advice prior to the NICE review. Mrs Samuels reported Professor Routledge had raised this issue with NICE and had been informed that a safety net had been implemented with a warning that Viox had been withdrawn and other Cox IIs inhibitors would be reviewed. It was confirmed that NICE are awaiting an EMEA review of safety and would be reassessing their document in light of the EMEA findings. It was agreed that AWPAG should take no further action at this point.

6 ***Feedback from AWMSG Meeting***

Membership & constitutional issues

WMP tabled a discussion paper outlining the current procedure for reappointment and other membership issues and the proposed changes for the future. Mrs Samuels reiterated that members had the opportunity to suggest changes to the constitution via the AWMSG Steering Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that

- ☐ the AWPAG Chairman would be elected by the group.
- ☐ The Vice Chairman will not automatically assume the role of Chairman at the end of the Chairman's term of office.
- ☐ The terms of office of the Chairman and Vice Chairman should run concurrently (ie three years)
- ☐ In the event of the Chair not being a member of AWMSG, an AWMSG prescribing member will be invited to join AWPAG to form a link between the sub-group and the parent group. It must be made clear, however, that this role will be active and not merely observational.
- ☐ AWPAG should seek to appoint a secondary care consultant member and that nominations should be sought from the Medical Directors of Trusts.
- ☐ All members and deputies will be notified of the dates of meetings for 2005. A personalized letter will be sent to make it clear that if members are unable to attend, they must contact their deputy giving as much notice as possible.
- ☐ Nominations will be sought for those members who have attended less than 50% of meetings during their term of appointment from their appropriate professional bodies. All other members will be invited to serve a further year.
- ☐ Locum expenses will be paid for GP members upon provision of documentary evidence. WMP will be empowered to apply discretion in relation to expenses and claims with the proviso that documentary evidence is provided.

WMP

Antiplatelet & Statin Guidance documents

Mr Stuart Evans informed the group that all comments had been taken on board following the AWMSG December meeting, and that AWMSG had

agreed with the AWPAG recommendation that the guidance templates be disseminated to the service via local M&TCs with an accompanying letter from the Chairs of both AWPAG and AWMSG reiterating that the documents are templates for local adaptation, and would require future review in light of any new evidence. At the AWMSG meeting the Chairman had requested that the documents be brought back to AWPAG for final comment and amendment. Points of accuracy and suggested final changes were noted by Mr Stuart Evans and it was agreed that the standard wording “please refer to most recent SPC for full prescribing information” should be added.

It was agreed that the implementation of these templates would be more successful if it was supported by education and audit, and Mr Hayes confirmed that WeMeReC would be producing a statin bulletin in the Spring and offered to provide feedback through their implementation and capture awareness data. The positive feedback from the Cardiac Networks in offering to assist with the dissemination of the document through their Care Pathways was noted. It was agreed that Mrs Nicola John, Mr Jamie Hayes and Professor Roger Walker should draft the letter for dissemination to all M&TCs, interface pharmacists and the Cardiac Networks. It was also agreed that the documents should be posted on the AWMSG website along with a link to the Implementation paper previously brought to the group by Mr Bill Duffield. It was agreed that the documents would be reviewed on an annual basis by AWPAG.

NJ/JH/RW

National Prescribing Incentive Scheme – update

The Chair reported that there had been broad support for the scheme from AWMSG but that matters of clarity needed to be addressed. The response from the LHB Finance Directors had been presented to AWMSG for consideration and they asked for it to be sent to LHB Medical Directors. It was agreed that Mrs Nicola John and Dr Martin Duerden would draft a letter to LHB Medical Directors. AWMSG had agreed that the remuneration level recommended should be set at a sum of £500 and that a worked example should be included in the document. There were conflicting views around the table with this figure. However, it was felt that as the budget setting was currently arbitrary, the scheme was not mandatory, that the group’s task was to agree a template only. It was acknowledged that there would be LHB local discretion around the agreed figure of £500. Other minor points were clarified and the Chair agreed to circulate the revised document to members. Mrs John informed the group that she had received a letter from ABPI Wales reiterating the issues addressed at the AWMSG December meeting. It was agreed that all the points raised had been suitably addressed. AWMSG had asked that the refined document be finalized at the January meeting of AWPAG and, following that meeting, would be re-circulated to AWMSG members. The AWMSG Chairman confirmed that he would take Chairman’s action to progress the document.

NJ/MD

The issue of incentivising Trusts was discussed, and it was agreed that a working group should be formed to discuss this issue and bring a paper back to a future AWPAG meeting. It was agreed that this group should consist of:

- Trust Clinical Director

- LHB Finance Director
- Interface Pharmacist
- Trust Finance Director
- HOPMM
- GP

Dr Tessa Lewis and Dr Charlie Danino agreed to provide GP input for the working group.

Any other relevant issues

Mrs Lang circulated the amended annual report. This document will be posted on the AWMSG website.

Mr Hayes confirmed that he was currently preparing a matrix on prescribing and pharmaceutical publications and would bring this back to a future meeting for comment.

Mrs Samuels reported that AWPAG had been asked to identify factors underpinning the widespread and continued use of drugs classed as less suitable for prescribing. Members agreed that Health Solutions Wales (HSW) needed professional support to address the issue of maintaining the basket of indicators. Mrs Samuels agreed to raise this issue with HSW.

KS

Dr Lau confirmed that NHSIF had been asked to consider SIP feeds and develop a paper. AWPAG had been asked to address the clinical issues of this paper that would then be taken to AWMSG. It was agreed that Mrs Samuels would seek a nomination to the working group from a dietician, gastroenterologist, GP and AWPAG member. Mrs Judith Vincent agreed to nominate a prescribing adviser from her region to the working group and confirmed she would provide the link back to AWPAG.

KS/JV

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2005-2006 All Wales National Indicator targets

As a group AWPAG had been tasked with setting national indicators for 2005/2006 and Mrs Samuels reported that the group had been asked to set targets for this period based upon the quarter ending December 2004. The group reiterated the need for professional support to HSW to ensure that the information had been interpreted correctly. In the absence of this support, Mr William Duffield and Mrs Delyth Simons that if HSW could run a sample for the quarter ending December 2004 they would see whether the levels and targets set are workable.

DS/WD/KS

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Local (Low Level) Prescribing Indicators

Mrs Delyth Simons presented Enclosure 6. Time constraints had prevented the group from considering the list presented in the previous meeting and comments had been received from the regional groups in the interim period. Health Solutions Wales had confirmed that there was no limit on the number of indicators that could be included. The group considered the list and Mrs Simons agreed to amend the paper in light of the discussion to be submitted to the AWMSG March meeting. It was also agreed that the group should propose a name change from local indicators to comparators, and recommend professional support to HSW is imperative. The need for consistency of measurement across Wales was discussed and Mrs John agreed to prepare a paper on ADQ / DDD

DS

- discussed and Mrs John agreed to prepare a paper on ADQ / DDD measurements for discussion at the next AWPAG meeting in April. NJ
- 9 *Feedback from Gwbert meeting & arrangements for next prescriber's conference***
 The Chair acknowledged the efforts of the South East region in organising an excellent meeting held in Gwbert during November 2004. The group agreed there was a need to organize a Prescribing Conference for a wider cross section of prescribers including general practitioners, secondary care prescribers, HOPMMs, National Public Health Service etc. It was agreed that a working group should be formed to address the issue of themes, programme, venue etc. WMP agreed to bring a paper to the next meeting to inform discussion. WMP
- 10 *Blood glucose testing***
 Mr Ken Nazareth introduced Mr Andy Bray, Nurse Specialist to members and presented Enclosure 7, a template to produce LHB guidelines on home blood glucose monitoring. The Group agreed to endorse this work as good practice, and recommend to AWMSG that the templates be made available to all LHBs within Wales. WMP
- 11 *Implementing Patient Safety Alert 03 – Reducing the harm caused by oral Methotrexate – a unified approach***
 Mrs Nuala Brennan presented Enclosure 8 to the Group. AWPAG was asked to review the approach taken by Gwent Partnership Medicines and Therapeutics Committee (GPMTTC) and suggest how best practice could be shared and implemented across Wales. It was recognized that the principles in relation to alerts of high-risk products are wide reaching. Mrs Poulter suggested that the paper be discussed at the NHSIF. The problem of compliancy of IT systems in relation to the questionnaire was raised. It was agreed that all new patients should only be given a 2.5 mg strength tablet and no more than one month's supply should be made available to the patient. Mrs Carolyn Poulter agreed to raise the issue of implementation arrangements with Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells. AWPAG agreed to recommend that the paper be taken to the AWMSG March 2005 meeting as an example of good practice and offer the template for local adaptation. It was also agreed to recommend that Welsh Assembly Government write to interface committees requesting feedback in relation to its implementation. CP/WMP
- 12 *Shared Care***
 Mrs Lang reported that at its September 2004 meeting AWMSG had asked that a task and finish group (T&FG) be formed to consider what products would be suitable for shared care across Wales. Dr Alison Thomas had agreed to take the lead on behalf of WMP and volunteers had been sought from within AWPAG and other prescribing colleagues. The T&FG would be tasked with clarifying the issue of shared care and give direction to AWMSG bearing in mind the GMS contract. Mrs Lang confirmed that the first meeting of the working group would be held at the end of January, and it was hoped that an update paper would be prepared for the next AWPAG meeting in April. Working group

13 *Inappropriate generics*

Mrs Judith Vincent reported that a working group had been established to review those drugs where generic prescribing is not considered appropriate and should be prescribed by brand name. The list of drugs included in the paper entitled 'National Prescribing Indicators 2005/6' presented to AWMSG in June 2004 had been considered by this group. A letter had been issued to the service on 9th December 2004 asking for comments on a proposed list which included supplementary information / guidance to accompany the indicators. Comments were sought on the intention as a principle and also on the specific issues highlighted. Mrs Vincent confirmed the deadline for receipt of comments by 18th January and asked members to send their comments to either herself or WMP by this date.

**AWPAG
Members**

14 *Any other business*

AWMSG 2-day Training Workshop 23/24 March 2005

AWPAG members had been invited to attend a 2-day workshop on Information Mastery to be held at the Cardiff Hilton Hotel. Members were informed that places were limited and would be booked on a 'first come first served' basis.

**AWPAG
Members**

MHRA Consultation document

Review of the code of practice on interests to apply to the chairmen and members of the advisory bodies laid down in the Medicines Act 1968

The group wholly endorsed the consultation document and the Chair agreed to send a letter of response.

Freedom of Information – Sharing of prescribing data

The Chairman raised the issue of the sharing of prescribing data under the Freedom of Information Act. It was noted that prescribing data is controlled by the Data Protection Act. Mrs Carolyn Poulter agreed to address this issue within Welsh Assembly and report back to the group.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th April 2005 in Swansea. Venue details to follow.