

Enclosure No:	9/AWMSG/0513
Agenda Item No:	13 – Minutes of AWPAG meeting March 2013
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ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

**Minutes of meeting held
Tuesday, 12th March 2013 commencing 9.30 am
At Sport Wales, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff**

Members

Dr Tessa Lewis (Chair)	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Louise Howard-Baker (Vice Chair)	Pharmacist, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mr Alan Clatworthy	Pharmacist, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Ms Sian Evans	Public Health Wales
Dr Susannah Jacks	GP, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Robyn Miles	Wales Industry Group
Mrs Fiona Walker	Pharmacist, Cardiff and Vale
Mrs Sue Beach	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Mrs Kate Spittle	Pharmacist, Cwm Taff
Dr Sue Jeffs	Consultant, Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Lee-Ann Farrell	ABPI Cymru Wales

In attendance

Mrs Karen Samuels, AWTTTC
Mrs Ruth Lang, AWTTTC
Mr Jamie Hayes, AWTTTC
Dr Robert Bracchi, AWTTTC
Miss Chrissie Collier, AWTTTC
Mrs Kate Jenkins, AWTTTC
Miss Samantha Webster, AWTTTC

Key of abbreviations

AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWMSGSC	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group Steering Committee
AWPAG	All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group
AWTTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
CASPA	Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit
CEPP	Clinical Effectiveness Prescribing Programme (Formerly called the Prescribing Incentive Scheme)
CPW	Community Pharmacy Wales
DH	Department of Health
GP	General Practitioner
MHRA	Medicines Health and Regulatory Authority
MMPB	Medicines Management Programme Board

NMG	New Medicines Group
NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
NSAIDs	Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
PSU	Prescribing Support Unit
SLA	Service Level Agreement
T&FG	Task and Finish Group
UHB	University Health Board
WAPSU	Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit
WG	Welsh Government
WeMeReC	Welsh Medicines Resource Centre

1.0 Welcome & introduction

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members. It was noted that Mrs Kate Spittle was attending her first AWPAG meeting as deputy for Mrs Bev Woods, and Mrs Lee-Ann Farrell had been nominated by ABPI Cymru Wales in the absence of Dr Richard Greville. It was noted that the meeting date had been rearranged and a number of apologies had been received. The quorum of eleven voting members had not been met.

2.0 Apologies

Mrs Jane Barnard	Lay member
Dr Richard Greville	Director ABPI (non-voting)
Dr Ashok Rayani	GPC Wales
Dr Hamsaraj Shetty	Consultant, Cardiff and Vale
Mr Jonathan Simms	Pharmacist, Aneurin Bevan
Dr Mark Walker	GP, Betsi Cadwaladr
Mrs Bev Woods	Pharmacist, Cwm Taf
Dr Sean Young	GP, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
Miss Sophie Harding	Pharmacist, Velindre
Mrs Sarah Isaac	Pharmacist, Hywel Dda
Mr Paul Fleming	British Generics Manufacturers (non-voting)
Mrs Marnel Owen	Other professions eligible to prescribe
Mr Stefan Fec	Community Pharmacist

3.0 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4.0 Chair's report

The Chair opened the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves. The Chair announced her term of office as AWPAG Chair is due to expire in 2013 and confirmed that the June AWPAG meeting would be her last. Expressions of interest in relation to the appointment as Chair were invited. Members thanked Dr Lewis for her services to the Group and dedication in moving the therapeutics agenda forward during her eight years of membership.

5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – January 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy. No changes were made and it was agreed the minutes were an accurate reflection of proceedings.

5.1 Matters arising:

Prescribing Dilemmas

It was reported that the update to this document had been delayed pending legislative changes, anticipated May 2013.

Information technology update

In response to the presentation at the previous meeting by Mrs Cheryl Way from the NHS Wales Informatics Service, and subsequent discussion regarding the GMC report – Investigating Prescribing Errors in General Practice, the Chair confirmed that a letter of support in relation to the “patient information at the point of discharge: medicine reminder chart and the electronic discharge system had been prepared in draft and sent to the AWPAG patient representative for comment. It was agreed to seek endorsement from other professional groups to strengthen AWPAG’s support

ACTION

Chair to seek endorsement of other professional groups and forward letter of support to NWIS

Local Comparators 2013-2014

The Chair reported that the local comparators had been circulated to Chief Pharmacists.

Review: Prescribing of Denosumab (Prolia®) in Wales

It was confirmed that the review of the AWMSG guidance ‘Prescribing of Denosumab (Prolia®) in Wales’ would be progressed by AWPAG in line with other work priorities.

Review: Prescribing Status of Dronedarone (Multaq®)

It was confirmed that the review of the AWMSG guidance ‘Prescribing Status of Dronedarone (Multaq®)’ would be progressed by AWPAG in line with other work priorities.

It was confirmed that following discussions with Welsh Government officials, an AWPAG work programme would be agreed for the forthcoming year, and opportunity would be extended to key groups within NHS Wales to agree and set priorities.

Update to WHC (2003) 73 – Roles and Structure of Prescribing Committees

It was confirmed that a review of this circular had recently been identified as a priority by Welsh Government. It was confirmed that AWTTC had been asked to review the implications of the NICE Good practice Guidance for Prescribing Committees to ensure consistency with current guidance available within NHS Wales.

6.0 Feedback from AWMSG meeting held 6 February 2013

All Wales Review and Guidance for Prescribing Intervals (28/30-day packs)

The Chair confirmed that this document had been endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting in February 2013 and made available on the AWMSG website. It was noted there was a discrepancy of views in relation to 28-day packs expressed by the industry member at AWMSG.

Action

ABPI Cymru Wales representative to seek clarification and report back to the Group

All Wales Guide to Prescribing Gluten-Free Products

The Chair confirmed that this document had been endorsed by AWMSG at their meeting in February 2013 and made available on the AWMSG website. The Chair relayed the suggestion of AWMSG that Read codes could be included in the document. Members agreed the inclusion of the codes would be helpful and aid implementation. It was noted that AWTTC does not have access to the codes. A suggestion was made, in order to avoid duplication of effort, that this work could be undertaken in one area and subsequently and shared with other health boards. The Chair agreed to liaise with Julie Nedin and Louise Howard-Baker outside of the meeting to progress this. Members were referred to the draft minutes of the AWMSG meeting held in February to the scheme currently being piloted within Cardiff and Vale UHB. Professor Walker had suggested that a report should be presented to AWMSG.

Action

Chair to progress a way forward for inclusion of Read codes, and to establish time-scales in relation to the pilot from the Chief Pharmacist in Cardiff and Vale UHB

CEPP National Audit 2013–2014: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing

The Chair confirmed that the CEPP National Audit 2013–2014: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing would be considered by AWMSG at their meeting on Wednesday, 20 March 2013. It was noted that the under 5's and over 60's age groups had been excluded from the cough section of the audit. The Chair thanked the health boards who had undertaken the pilot of the audit. Clarification was sought of the wording relating to 7-day delayed prescribing.

Action

Amendment to delayed prescribing to be advised at AWMSG

The Chair encouraged members to consider including this audit within their local incentive scheme options. It was noted that public awareness of antibiotic resistance had heightened due to recent increased publicity. Members agreed that improving the quality of prescribing antibiotics within NHS Wales remained a priority, and the Chair invited suggestions for increasing awareness amongst prescribers of tools currently available. **Action**

Chair to liaise with AWTTTC and consider mechanism for sign-posting to available information

AWMSG National Prescribing Indicators 2013–2014: Supporting information for prescribers

The Chair confirmed this document would be presented to AWMSG at their meeting on 20 March 2013 and invited comment. It was suggested that the Back Book Wales be added to the resources and also that antibiotic audit tool should be included within the summary document pending approval of the audit by AWMSG.

Action

AWTTTC to amend document

8.0 Implementation

The Chair invited Mr Jamie Hayes to lead discussion on implementation. Mr Hayes referred members to a discussion paper and suggested that a framework for implementation for all future AWPAG projects should be developed. Members agreed there was a need for a structured approach and a change of culture within the service in order to understand and overcome barriers to implementation. Members considered implementation in relation to the antibiotic audit as an illustration. Key areas were considered and members noted that peer discussion had considerable potential to influence change. It was also suggested that endorsement or ratification of guidance by Welsh Government might improve implementation of identified priorities. Members discussed tools available and relayed their views on what worked within their individual health boards. Mr Hayes agreed to produce a checklist for the implementation of the antibiotic audit and Mrs Howard-Baker volunteered to feedback on implementation of this audit from within BCUHB. There was agreement that AWPAG should increase focus on the implementation of best practice guidance upon initiation of a new project.

Action

JH to produce implementation checklist

9.0 All Wales Common Ailments Formulary

The Chair introduced Mrs Fiona Woods and invited her to highlight the outstanding issues in relation to the Common Ailments Formulary. Mrs Woods provided the background and explained the consultation process. The document was updated at the meeting, taking on board comments from around the table. Members were informed the formulary would be

available to all prescribers electronically via the internet. Mrs Woods confirmed that the formulary would be presented to AWMSG in May.

10.0 Electronic access to the [Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin](http://dtb.bmj.com/)

The Chair reported the availability of electronic access to the Drugs & Therapeutics Bulletin via <http://dtb.bmj.com/>, with a trial period until May. The Chair asked members to promote its use and encourage uptake. Members suggested raising awareness of this to Medicines & Therapeutics Committees, Medical Directors and Assistant Medical Directors, Local Medical Committees, Postgraduate Centres in Wales (for student access), Chief Pharmacists, and Dieticians. The Chair confirmed she would liaise with AWTTTC to discuss the promotion of this valuable resource outside of the meeting.

Action

Chair to liaise with AWTTTC

11.0 All Wales Risk Assessment for Oral Anticoagulant Treatment

The Chairman invited members to consider whether adequate tools were already in place across Wales. The group discussed the benefit of progressing either the enclosed All Wales Risk Assessment tool for prescribing oral anticoagulants or a risk-benefit tool. It was noted that the AWMSG best practice guidance for monitoring patients on oral anticoagulant treatment had not included a validated standard All Wales Risk Assessment and the enclosure combined the widely accepted HAS-BLED score with the previously noted social considerations. Members welcomed the risk form but agreed there is a perceived need for this to be progressed into a risk-benefit summary document. Mr Clatworthy agreed to liaise with Mrs Howard-Baker to develop a tool for consideration at the next meeting

Action

AC and LHB to develop a risk assessment tool

12.0 All Wales Dyspepsia and Proton Pump Inhibitor Educational Pack

The Chair invited Mrs Kate Jenkins to provide the background to the document. Mrs Jenkins explained the document previously considered by AWPAG had been updated following consultation with specialists, and condensed into a more useful document. There was discussion over the title of the document. Comments were noted in relation to the executive summary, the unit of measure for the trend graph, reference to magnesium, rebound hypersecretion, and reference to the All Wales Common Ailments Formulary. Mrs Jenkins confirmed that the document would be updated in light of comments received and circulated to industry and gastroenterologists to provide an opportunity to comment. The audit would be piloted.

ACTION

To be presented to AWMSG (provisionally scheduled May 2013)

13.0 Royal Pharmaceutical Society “Improving patient outcomes: The better use of multi-compartment compliance aids” – Presentation by Mr Paul Gimson

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul Gimson from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and invited members to introduce themselves. Mr Gimson reminded members that the document had been provided to AWPAG in confidence. Mr Gimson explained the background to the guidance and explained how the remit had developed from a scientific document, into practical guidance to support the use of multi-compartment compliance aids. Mr Gimson acknowledged the AWMSG guidance on monitored dosage systems had been developed by AWPAG and was aligned to a previous version of the RPS guidance. It was noted that both documents had adopted similar best practice principles. Mr Gimson sought AWPAG's support and endorsement of the document, and asked members to identify any challenges relating to its implementation. The Chair invited comment and the issue of a clinical medication review was discussed. There was discussion over the safety aspects of using multi-compartment compliance aids and the impact of social care, particularly in nursing homes. Members welcomed the document. It was suggested that AWPAG should

promote the AWMSG and RPS documents in tandem to support the improvement of patient outcomes. The requirement for continued education and training of relevant health care professionals and support workers was highlighted. Problems in delaying discharge of patients from hospital were discussed and Mr Gimson agreed to highlight these problems at a strategic level. There was unanimous support of this best practice guidance and members agreed to promote the better use of multi-compartment compliance aids.

14.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Committee

It was noted that an update to the Cold Chain Guidance was required. There were no other issues of note.

15.0 Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting: **Thursday, 6th June 2013**
 Thursday, 12th September 2013
 Thursday, 5th December 2013