

Enclosure No:	<b>XX/AWMSG/0222</b>
Agenda Item No:	<b>1 – Minutes of AWPAG meeting 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021</b>
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## **ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP (AWPAG)**

**DRAFT Minutes of meeting held on  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 commencing at 9.30 am via Zoom**

**Chair** – Dr Laurence Gray      Consultant Clinical Pharmacologist, Cardiff & Vale UHB

### **Voting members**

Mr David Barnard	Lay member
Mrs Clare Clement	Prescribing Advisor – Cardiff and Vale
Dr Phil Cox	General Practitioner – Swansea Bay
Ms Helen Davies	Prescribing Advisor – Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Ms Hazel Hopkins	Prescribing Advisor – Hywel Dda
Dr Lynette James	All Wales Consultant Pharmacist – Acute Care & Medication Safety
Mr Dylan Jones	Community Pharmacist – Powys
Dr Becky McGee	General Practitioner – Aneurin Bevan
Mrs Sue Knights	ABPI representative
Mr Darren Smith	Pharmacist – Swansea Bay
Mrs Bethan Tranter	Chief Pharmacist – Velindre
Mr Ben Woodhouse	Alternate Pharmacist member – Betsi Cadwaladr

### **In attendance (non-voting)**

Dr Rick Greville	ABPI
Mr Paul Fleming	Chairman BGMA
Ms Shaila Ahmed	AWTTC
Mr Richard Boldero	AWTTC
Dr Rob Bracchi	AWTTC
Dr Thomas Curran	AWTTC
Dr Paul Deslandes	AWTTC
Ms Kath Haines	AWTTC
Mrs Ruth Lang	AWTTC
Mrs Sian Harbon	AWTTC
Ms Lia McKenzie	AWTTC
Mrs Claire Thomas	AWTTC

### **Presenting**

Mr Gruffydd Lloyd	Item 7 – Student Presentation
Mr Emyr Jones	Item 8.1 Care Homes Medicines Optimisation Toolkit
Mr John Dicomidis	Item 8.1 Care Homes Medicines Optimisation Toolkit
Ms Meryl Davies	Items 8.2 – 8.5 Antimicrobials
Ms Katerina Vardulaki	Items 8.2 – 8.5 Antimicrobials
Dr Jonathan Goodfellow	Item 8.9 - Heart Failure in Wales in 2021– a Parallel Approach

### **Key of abbreviations**

ABPI	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
AWMSG	All Wales Medicines Strategy Group
AWTTC	All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre
DHCW	Digital Health and Care Wales
MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NPIs	National Prescribing Indicators
PHW	Public Health Wales

## **1.0 Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed all members and introduced Dr Phil Cox who was attending his first meeting as General Practitioner representative for Swansea Bay UHB.

## **2.0 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Ms Rosemary Allgeier	Primary Care Senior Manager – Public Health Wales
Dr Richard Brown	General Practitioner – Hywel Dda UHB
Mr Robert Caine	Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe
Ms Sarah Davies	Advanced Nurse Practitioner – Hywel Dda UHB
Mr Hywel Jones	Locality Prescribing Advisor and Lead Pharmacist for Aneurin Bevan UHB Prisons
Mrs Karen Samuels	AWTTC

## **3.0 Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement**

The Chair asked members to declare any interests relevant to the meeting. Mrs Sue Knights declared an interest for item 8.8, Value based prescribing and the Chair confirmed that Mrs Knights would need to leave the meeting for that item. Members were reminded that Declarations of Interest forms should be returned to AWTTC prior to the meeting.

## **4.0 Chair's report**

### **Membership**

### **Resignations**

Members were informed that Mr Robert Caine had resigned as the 'Other professions eligible to prescribe' member of the group.

### **New Appointments**

The Chair informed members that an alternate Pharmacist member for Powys Teaching Health Board was awaiting AWMSG Steering Committee approval.

The Chair reminded members that there are currently vacancies for doctor members for Betsi Cadwaladr and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards and Powys Teaching Health Board, along with a doctor member from Velindre NHS Trust. Members were asked to forward nominations to AWTTC.

## **5.0 Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

Minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and agreed.

The actions from the last meeting were considered.

## **6.0 Feedback from AWMSG – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

- Proposal to adopt a high-value prescribing strategy  
Richard Boldero informed members that this would be covered under agenda item 8.8.
- Cellulitis Pathway for People with Lymphoedema or Chronic Oedema in NHS Wales (for acknowledgement)  
Kath Haines informed members that the document was supported subject to a few amendments requested by AWMSG, which included addressing prescription of rescue packs as GPs cannot prescribe for overseas use.
- All Wales Adult Asthma Management and Prescribing Guidelines (2021 update)  
Richard Boldero informed members that the document had been endorsed subject to a few minor amendments.

- All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guidelines (2021 update)  
Richard Boldero informed members that the document had been endorsed subject to a few minor amendments.
- National Prescribing Indicators 2022 – 2023  
Kath Haines informed members that this document was endorsed subject to minor changes and would require AWMSG acknowledgement of the “*Heart Failure in Wales in 2021 – a Parallel Approach*” guidance in order for the Heart Failure indicator to be included in the document.

*Gruffydd Lloyd joined the meeting.*

## **7.0 Student Project Presentation**

Gruffydd Lloyd gave a presentation on ‘The impact of the All Wales COPD Management and Prescribing Guideline on inhaler prescribing across primary care in Wales’. The presentation was very well received with good recommendations and conclusions. It was highlighted that wide dissemination of this information is key and inhaler recycling should be noted.

*Gruffydd Lloyd left the meeting.*

*Emyr Jones and John Dicomidis joined the meeting.*

## **8.0 Documents for discussion**

### **8.1 Care Homes Medicines Optimisation Toolkit**

Emyr Jones gave members the background to the Care Homes Medicines Optimisation Toolkit which pulls together resources developed by John Dicomidis. It was highlighted that resources within the toolkit were designed to be short and simple to use. Members were informed that a glossary is still to be included and a few minor adjustments required before going out to consultation in the new year. Discussion followed regarding raising awareness, the process for dissemination, implementation and hosting of the documents on websites.

A concern was raised over the assessment for self-administration and patients with a history of substance misuse. It was also noted that patients who are temporarily in a care home as a stepping stone between hospital and home should be supported to manage their own medicines so that they don't lose confidence when returning home. It was also suggested that pharmacy technicians could be referred to within the document. Members were assured that all comments received would be considered. The Chair thanked Emyr Jones and John Dicomidis and confirmed the next stage for this document is for it to proceed to consultation.

**Action: Document to be updated prior to going out to consultation.**

*Emyr Jones and John Dicomidis left the meeting.*

*Meryl Davies and Katerina Vardulaki joined the meeting.*

### **8.2 Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines (2021 update)**

Meryl Davies presented the Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines (2021 Update) which has been updated further to new evidence from NICE and other sources. It was noted that the authors had addressed the consultation comments. The involvement of dental colleagues in the consultation was queried, and Meryl Davies assured members that dental colleagues had been involved in the development of relevant sections. Members were reminded that there was one comment for members to consider on page 1 of the comments regarding developing a Wales backup prescribing guideline and asked for feedback regarding this. Meryl Davies noted that at

present there is no guidance for how to best implement a backup prescribing strategy and that different practices do it in different ways and suggested that a pathway would be needed on how best to implement a backup prescribing strategy. Short discussion followed. It was queried as to the availability of the “When should I worry?” booklet. Members were informed that these are available online in a printable format and in a HTML format for easy reading.

The Chair suggested that there could be a possible project regarding backup prescribing. Katerina Vardulaki agreed to look at the evidence for this and feedback to AWTTTC, for consideration of a proposal to develop “A good practice guide to back up prescribing strategy” as part of f its work programme.

The Chair confirmed that this project will progress to AWTTTC for consideration.

**Action: Document to progress to AWMSG**

### **8.3 CEPP Audits: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing (2021 update)**

Meryl Davies informed members that the CEPP Audits: Focus on Antibiotic Prescribing (2021 Update) sits underneath the main guidance and, further to the main guidance update, the audit also required an update. The document supports the audit of the implementation of the Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines. There were no further comments from members and the Chair confirmed that the document to progress to AWMSG.

**Action: Document to progress to AWMSG**

### **8.4 Management of Recurrent Symptomatic Urinary Tract Infection in Adult Women**

Meryl Davies gave the background to the Management of the Recurrent Symptomatic Urinary Tract Infection in Adult Women document which has been developed in consultation with the Welsh Urology Board. It was noted that the majority of comments received on this document were very positive. There were some comments and discussion on the use of methenamine hippurate. The Chair proposed that further guidance on the use of methenamine could be incorporated once in-progress studies on its use had been completed and published. Until then, the document should be published as it currently is. Members agreed for the document to progress to AWMSG for endorsement with a review at a later date.

**Action: Document to progress to AWMSG**

### **8.5 Management of Clostridioides difficile Infection in Wales**

Meryl Davies gave the background to the Management of Clostridioides difficile Infection in Wales document which has been developed following the publication of updated NICE guidance. Consultation comments received on this document were positive. There were no further comments from members and the Chair confirmed for this document to progress to AWMSG for endorsement.

**Action: Document to progress to AWMSG**

*Meryl Davies and Katerina Vardulaki left the meeting.*

### **8.6 All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation**

Shaila Ahmed presented the All Wales Advice on Oral Anticoagulation for Non-valvular Atrial Fibrillation document which had been out for consultation and had received a number of comments. Members were reminded that the document was reviewed in 2020 but had been updated again in line with NICE guidelines. All comments have been

addressed. Members were asked for further comments but none were raised. The Chair thanked Shaila Ahmed and confirmed the document would progress to AWMSG.

**Action: Document to progress to AWMSG**

### **8.7 National Prescribing Indicators 2022-2023: Supporting Information for Prescribers and Healthcare Professionals**

Claire Thomas presented the National Prescribing Indicators 2022-2023: Supporting information for Prescribers and Healthcare Professionals. It was noted that this document supports the main National Prescribing Indicators 2022-2023 document which was endorsed by AWMSG in November 2021 subject to the outcome of the Heart Failure in Wales in 2021– a Parallel Approach being acknowledged by AWMSG. This document is produced as a quick reference guide and gives links to additional resources. Members agreed for the document to proceed to AWMSG.

**Action: Document to proceed to AWMSG**

*Sue Knights left the meeting*

### **8.8 Value based prescribing**

Richard Boldero presented two papers within the 'Value based prescribing' programme. The first paper provided an overview for the proposed strategic approach to this programme of work. Paper 2 provided the rationale for the first medicines to be considered within the domain of 'optimal prescribing for higher health gain'; specifically focused on the biological medicines for severe eosinophilic asthma. A brief discussion followed where members raised no concerns with the content of these papers but did suggest further focus could be applied to attaining more specific data in support of the medicines included, and a closer alignment with the wider 'value' aspects.

**Action: Documents to proceed to consultation.**

*Sue Knights re-joined the meeting*

### **8.9 Heart Failure in Wales in 2021– a Parallel Approach New Project Proposal (Acknowledgement Process)**

Dr Jonathan Goodfellow presented the Heart Failure in Wales in 2021– a Parallel Approach and gave members a background to the document. Discussion followed at length and the process the document should follow was raised. Members were invited to a poll with three options: 1. Accepted for the AWMSG acknowledgement process; 2. Requires a small amount of additional work prior to consideration for AWMSG acknowledgement; 3. Needs to go through full AWMSG endorsement process, with further AWPAG input and full consultation. Members voted in favour of option 2 that the document requires a small amount of additional work prior to consideration for AWMSG acknowledgement. The Chair confirmed that further amendments would be made to the document and proceed to AWMSG.

Ben Woodhouse requested that a value-based assessment section be included in this document.

**Action: Amendments to be made to the document prior to progressing to AWMSG for acknowledgment consideration.**

## **9.0 Verbal updates**

### **9.1 Resource reallocation (previously Disinvestment)**

Richard Boldero informed the group that there is a collaborative project with Swansea Centre for Health Economics and the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines

Evaluation with a particular focus on the DPP4 inhibitors (gliptins). AWTTC are looking to put together an expert working panel to advise on specific issues as they arise within the research and members were asked for volunteers for the group. An email will be sent to members with this request.

**Action: Richard Boldero to email members with a request for volunteers for the expert panel group.**

## **9.2 All Wales Chronic Pain Resources**

Paul Deslandes reminded members that the All Wales Chronic Pain Resources document had been out for consultation which closed just prior to the AWPAG meeting in September, not allowing enough time for comments to be collated for that meeting. Paul Deslandes informed the group that AWTTC had since been in conversation with the Welsh Pain Society who have requested more time to look at the resources and to circulate the consultation document to nominated colleagues. AWTTC will circulate the document to the suggested group this week with a deadline of the middle of January for comments to be submitted. Members were informed that the Chair of the Welsh Pain Society was included when the consultation went out initially.

**Action: AWTTC to send consultation to colleagues suggested by Welsh Pain Society.**  
**Action: Document to return to AWPAG in March 2022.**

## **9.3 Cost of prescribing of drugs for diabetes in Wales and relationship to metabolic control**

Kath Haines informed members that further to Professor Colin Dayan and Dr Peter Taylor presenting the "Cost of prescribing of drugs for diabetes in Wales and its relationship to metabolic control" document at the last AWPAG meeting, AWTTC are doing some collaborative work with Swansea Centre for Health Economics to help inform on the findings presented. Kath Haines noted that this work is ongoing and an update will be given at a future AWPAG meeting. It was queried whether this document had been published. Members were informed that the document had been submitted for publication but as yet was not available. Members were to be informed as soon as the document is online.

**Action: AWTTC to inform members when document is published.**

## **9.4 Antimicrobial Wound Dressings (AWDs) Statement, Recommendations and Guidance (Acknowledgement Process)**

Kath Haines confirmed that the Antimicrobial Wound Dressings (AWDs) Statement, Recommendations and Guidance would be presented for acknowledgement to AWMSG next week. This document will be presented by Pete Philips, Director of the Surgical Material Testing Laboratories.

## **9.5 Potential future workstreams: Review of AWMSG's Guidance for Partnership Working**

Rick Greville gave members an update on the "Potential future workstreams: Review of AWMSG's Guidance for Partnership Working" which AWTTC will be working on collaboratively with the ABPI. Initial drafting will commence shortly, using the existing document as a baseline. Rick Greville noted that the ABPI has been working with the NHS Confederation on creating a toolkit and confirmed that the documents which are developed will be aligned to this. The ABPI/NHS Confederation toolkit is due to be published in December. Rick Greville agreed to share the toolkit with AWPAG members when it becomes available in mid-December.

**Action: Rick Greville to share ABPI/NHS Confederation Toolkit with members on publication.**

### **9.6 Prescribing decision support software update**

Claire Thomas updated members on progress with the two prescribing decision support software suppliers, ScriptSwitch and OptimiseRx. AWTTC have been in discussion with both companies for some time and there are already national messages on Scriptswitch around the low value for prescribing initiative. AWTTC are now looking at messaging around inhalers to help with the decarbonisation agenda and to align with the new National Prescribing Indicator which will be coming in next year. Members were informed that Claire Thomas and Richard Boldero had met with Paul Gimson and members of each health board who had an interest in ScriptSwitch and inhaler messaging to discuss national messages. It was noted that some health boards had already started adding messages in this area. AWTTC will share the proposed messages with AWPAG for comment in the new year before going online. AWTTC are also working with OptimiseRx, which is currently only available in EMIS practices, with the aim of including prescribing safety messages. It was noted that currently Optimise Rx messages can be tailored towards individual patients, which ScriptSwitch are looking to develop.

### **10.0 Best Practice Day – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Kath Haines gave feedback on the Best Practice Day held virtually on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Members were informed that there was a good attendance at the meeting, in excess of 100 and the presentations were very well received. It was noted that the next Best Practice Day would be held in February or March 2022. The Chair thanked those members who attended and supported the day and asked for suggestions for topics and volunteers for the next session.

### **11.0 Feedback from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group**

Bethan Tranter gave an update from the All Wales Chief Pharmacists Group.

- Work continues to develop a TRAMS (Transforming Access to Medicines Services) model. Colin Powell has been appointed as Director of Service and is building a business case for a facility in South East Wales (Newport site). Colin Powell is also currently determining job descriptions.
- WellSky the hospital pharmacy stock and dispensing system is now live in all health boards although further work is needed on some models.
- New immunisations - the role of pharmacy and logistics. Hospital pharmacies have been working closely with nursing teams both in hospital and community.
- Medicines Information Services have been working to modernise the MI services through an improved digital system and this is progressing well.
- A couple of retirements are due from the Chief Pharmacists Group in the next couple of months following which there will be a slight change to the Chief Pharmacists representing each area.

The Chair gave his congratulations on the WellSky and MI service developments.

### **12.0 Feedback from Health Boards and Velindre NHS Trust**

There was no feedback from the health boards to note.

### **13.0 Any other business**

#### **13.1 Decarbonisation dashboard**

Richard Boldero informed members that a decarbonisation dashboard had been developed by AWTTC to assist health boards in addressing the decarbonisation agenda with a specific focus on inhalers. AWTTC are currently looking for some user testers and members were asked for any volunteers.

**Action: Richard Boldero to email members with request for volunteers.**

**14.0 Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**