

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH JULY 2007 COMMENCING 10.30 AM IN THE HILL EDUCATION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, PEN-Y-POUND, ABERGAVENNY, NP7 7RP

Members

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| Mr Trevor Batt | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Mrs Debbie Davies | Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe |
| Dr Mark Daniels, | GP Mid and West Wales |
| Dr Martin Duerden | GP North Wales |
| Mr Bill Duffield | Pharmacist North Wales |
| Mr Stuart Evans | Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SW Wales |
| Mrs Katherine Hier | Healthcare professional eligible to prescribe – SE Wales |
| Ms Louise Howard-Baker | Pharmacist North Wales |
| Mrs Susanna Jacks | GP South |
| Mrs Nicola John (Chair) | NPHS Representative |
| Dr Tessa Lewis (Vice Chair) | GP South East Wales |
| Mr Ken Nazareth | Pharmacist South East Wales |
| Mr John Terry | Secondary care pharmacist |
| Mrs Judith Vincent | Pharmacist South West Wales |
| Dr David Webb | Secondary Care Consultant |

In attendance

Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Carolyn Poulter (Welsh Assembly Government representative)

Key of abbreviations

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| ASPBs | Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies |
| AWDAC | All Wales Dietetic Advisory Committee |
| AWMSG | All Wales Medicines Strategy Group |
| AWPAG | All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group |
| A&E | Accident & Emergency |
| BNF | British National Formulary |
| BSC | Business Services Centre |
| CHCs | Community Health Councils |
| CSM | Committee of Safety of Medicines |
| DoH | Department of Health |
| GP | General Practitioner |
| HSW | Health Solutions Wales |
| HoPMM | Heads of Pharmacy and Medicines Management |
| LHB | Local Health Board |
| LMCs | Local Medical Committees |

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| NHSIF | NHS Industry Forum |
| NMG | New Medicines Group |
| NPHS | National Public Health Service |
| NSAIDs | Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs |
| RAG | Renal Advisory Group |
| RPSGB | Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain |
| SLA | Service Level Agreement |
| WeMeReC | Welsh Medicines Resource Centre |
| WMP | Welsh Medicines Partnership |

1. Welcome, introduction & personalia

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Dr Jonathan Jones, GP North Wales
 Mr Berwyn Owen, GP North Wales
 Dr Stephen Lennox, Secondary Care Consultant
 Dr Robert Bracchi, GP Gwent
 Dr Ashok Rayani, GP Mid and West Wales

Mrs Carolyn Poulter had informed the Secretariat that she would be arriving late.

3. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda and in general. There were none.

4. Minutes of previous AWPAG meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

Matters arising

Diabetes guidelines:

The Chair reported that a second meeting to discuss the diabetes guidelines has been arranged for 13th July at the Village Hotel, Coryton. Representatives from AWPAG have been invited to attend and Mr Ken Nazareth and Mr Trevor Batt confirmed they will be able to attend during the afternoon. Mr Nazareth and Mr Batt both expressed concern that comments made at the first consultation meeting had not been taken into account in the revised document. Members agreed that any guidelines should be presented to the AWMSG for endorsement. The Chair encouraged continued engagement with the Consensus Group and agreed to raise the potential issue of conflicting advice in relation to national guidance with the AWMSG Chairman. Clarification was sought from the Welsh Assembly Government representative who agreed to raise these issues with the WAG Policy Lead. Mr Nazareth agreed to forward the detail in relation to deviance from national policy to Mrs Poulter.

Action

- AWPAG Chair to raise issue of engagement with AWMSG Chairman
- KN to provide CP with the level of detail in relation to deviance from national policy

Prescribing reviews

Mrs Lang confirmed that additional funding had been made available to support the editorial process in relation to the prescribing reviews of BNF chapters. Mrs Lang confirmed that the remit is being clarified.

Prescribing of erythropoiesis stimulating agents (epo) in secondary care

Dr Webb confirmed that this issue is being addressed by the Renal Advisory Group and expressed concern at the potential duplication of work. The Chairman reiterated that AWPAG routinely seeks the views of professional bodies in relation to work undertaken by the group. Members agreed there is a need to identify and liaise with the Chairs of all specialist networks. Mrs Lang confirmed that the Chairman of the Renal Network had written to the AWMSG Chairman asking for representation on their group. Dr Webb had been nominated as AWMSG/AWPAG representative. The Chair was encouraged with this engagement. Dr Webb agreed to feedback to the renal network that AWPAG would be happy to facilitate discussion in relation to the prescribing of epo in secondary / tertiary care. The Chair agreed to seek the views of the AWMSG Steering Committee in relation to the progressing of this issue.

Action

– NJ to raise issue with Steering Committee

5. Prescribing incentive scheme

The Chair invited Mr Bill Duffield to address the Group. Mr Duffield confirmed he had sought comment from LHBS and Prescribing Advisers Group in relation to establishing an evidence-base and feedback on the prescribing incentive scheme. There was discussion over the need for a question seeking percentage of educational component, percentage split and whether there had been a requirement for completion of an audit. Members agreed that the questions should not be over-complicated or cumbersome and that the aim should be to establish whether there is any benefit from producing the national prescribing incentive scheme, or whether there is a need to make any changes to the scheme.

Action

- WD to complete the list of questions and forward to WMP

- WMP to reproduce in Excel spreadsheet format, circulate to HOPMMS and invite feedback

Steroid audit:

The Chair referred members to Enclosure 3 - Inhaled Steroid Audit. It was noted that the roman numerals should be replaced with numbers and the reference to Mr Jonathan Simms should be replaced with an acknowledgement. Members agreed there is a need for clear and explicit criteria for best practice, but concern was expressed that the audit may be time consuming to complete. There were conflicting views and Dr Mark Daniels agreed to pilot the audit within his practice. Member discussed the inclusion of a patient steroid card and an additional reference to the Sheriffs report. Dr Duerden agreed to provide WMP with the additional reference and suggested that a preliminary and subsequent audit be undertaken. The Chair informed members of work currently being undertaken by Primary Care Quality Forum (PCQF) who are developing software for data manipulation. Members discussed whether the PCQF would be prepared to assist with making any audit technically easier and more robust. The Chair suggested that a PCQF pilot of the steroid audit could be compared with the manual audit being undertaken by Dr Daniels. It was agreed that the Chair would invite a representative of

the PCQF to the next meeting to address the group and participate in discussions.

Action

- Chair to invite PCQF to next AWPAG meeting
- Chair to seek views of the Steering Committee in relation to the audit

Steroids cards:

The Chair invited Mr Batt to address the Group. Mr Batt confirmed that a paper on the issuing of a steroid card had been taken to AWMSG for endorsement. AWMSG had suggested that the paper would benefit from the endorsement of the Welsh section of the Royal College of Physicians Respiratory Sub-group. Mr Batt confirmed that he had been unable to identify this group and had sought the view of the Welsh Thoracic Society through its Secretary, Dr Nick Duffy. Mr Batt confirmed that he the received three responses following the circulation, most notably questioning the extent of adrenal suppression with high dose inhaled corticosteroids, particularly in adults. Mr Batt agreed to provide a copy of these responses to the Chair.

Action

- Chair to feedback comments received to the AWMSG Steering Groups

The Chair drew members' attention to the DoH Interim guidance on 'strategies to achieve cost-effective prescribing'. Members were informed there is a legal challenge from the Industry in relation to the prescribing of statins. Members felt that the AWMSG incentive scheme did not contravene the guidance. Mrs Lang informed the Group that NHSIF had requested her to draw members' attention to the principles to underpin local strategies. These principles were considered and discussed in general.

Members felt that the issue of incentivising secondary care should be addressed, although it was acknowledged that this may form part of the prescribing strategy. It was agreed that a working group would be set up to develop a strategic and tactical document. The Chair informed members that AWMSG had been keen to develop a secondary care indicator and this could be considered by the working group.

The following individuals were suggested:

Berwyn Owen, Pharmacist

David Webb, Secondary Care Consultant

Seek the views of the AWMSG Chairman in relation to membership

Seek nomination of Trust Director of Finance

Dr Mark Daniels

Action

- Seek views of AWMSG Chairman in relation to membership of working group

6. Prescribing Indicators update

The Chair outlined the background to the agenda item and confirmed that AWMSG had agreed that comments from NHSIF should be sought in relation to the National Prescribing Indicator paper 2008/2009. The Chair confirmed that WMP had circulated the responses received from NHSIF and two additional responses provided by Takeda UK and AstraZeneca. The Chair informed members that an additional response had been received from Pfizer which was available in hard copy. Mrs Poulter confirmed that the indicators would not be included in the SAFF but would be part of the efficiency targets. The Chair informed the Group that feedback from AWMSG included the suggestion of an indicator for secondary care and the development of a strategic

indicator to align with pathways for healthcare. There was lengthy discussion over the comments received and Mrs Howard-Baker agreed to incorporate relevant comments into an amended version of the document to be circulated to the Group for comment and re-presented to AWMSG in August 2007. It was noted that Dr Mark Daniels is a member of the indicator working group. It was also noted there is significant GP representation on the Group.

There was discussion over interpretation of the wording and the Group agreed to include an explanation in relation to moving towards best practice. Mrs Poulter agreed to clarify with the Regional Offices their recognition of moving towards the target.

The Chairman thanked NHSIF for their comments and acknowledged Amy Kent's contribution at the NHSIF meeting.

Action – LH-B to circulate to members the revised draft and provide WMP with the final document to be included in the AWMSG August meeting documentation

The Chairman informed members of the Welsh Backs Campaign and suggested there is potential for the campaign to fit in with the non-steroidal target. Members agreed that a representative would be invited to the next meeting to discuss how AWPAG could support any prescribing message.

Action – NJ to invite representative to next meeting

Local comparators

There were no issues of note.

Secondary care indicators

It was agreed that a working group will be set up to look at incentivising secondary care and indicators. Mr John Terry raised awareness of the development of the Medusa system. Mr Terry informed members that a Group had been formed to pilot the use of Medusa and assess the manipulation of data. The Chair suggested that it would be helpful if Mr Terry could request a discussion paper from this group which could be presented to AWPAG at a future meeting.

Action – JT to request discussion paper from Pilot Group

Action – NJ to discuss nomination of secondary care representation on the Incentive Scheme Working Group with AWMSG Chairman

7. Shared Care update

Amiodarone:

The Chair invited Dr Tessa Lewis to provide the background to the agenda item. Dr Lewis informed members of feedback received from AWMSG members at their June meeting and minor changes subsequently made to the template. Dr Lewis confirmed that endorsement of the template had been received from the Welsh Society of British Geriatric Society endorsed paper. Dr Lewis informed the Group that a meeting had been arranged with Dr Peter O'Callaghan, Consultant Electrophysiologists at UHW, who would provide a view on behalf of the Welsh Cardiologists. Dr David Webb agreed to make contact with Dr Chris Jones, Chairman of the Physicians in Wales to seek their positive endorsement of the shared care template.

Action

- WMP to seek views of the Welsh Cardiac Network

- Dr David Webb to seek views of Chairman of the Physicians in Wales

Interface pharmacists:

Dr Lewis informed members that WMP had facilitated a meeting of Welsh Interface Pharmacists to discuss how national templates for shared care could be progressed and duplication of effort avoided. The variation in shared care across the regions and scope for dialogue was acknowledged. Dr Lewis had asked interface pharmacists to identify priorities in relation to shared care and interface issues. These priorities were discussed by AWPAG and members were requested to provide individual responses to the list. These will be collated and taken to the next AWPAG meeting. There was general discussion over how AWMSG could support the sharing and development of information in relation to shared care. Mrs Lang suggested adding links on the shared care page of the AWMSG website to the websites of the other organisations to promote the sharing of work.

Action – Dr Lewis, on behalf of WMP, to continue to engage with interface pharmacists in relation to the sharing of information and compile list of priorities
Action – WMP to suggest to the Steering Committee that links be added to the AWMSG website page on shared care

8. Prescribing Strategy

Mrs Lang confirmed that the strategic document is in the process of being edited and the supporting tactical documents are currently being prepared but were not available for circulation prior to this meeting.

9. Ibuprofen prescribing

The Chairman asked members to note the very helpful response received from the MHRA in relation to the prescribing of ibuprofen. The letter stated that 'CSM concluded that although there was a biologically plausible mechanism for acute renal failure to be causally related to ibuprofen, and that causal or contributory role could not be completely excluded in some case reports, the published clinical studies provide adequate reassurance that the risk is extremely low'. The Chairman closed the discussion.

10. Statin template update

The Chairman invited Dr Duerden to provide the background to the discussions. Dr Duerden referred members to the draft update of the AWMSG template for prescribing statins. It was noted that the NICE lipid modification guideline is currently being developed and NICE guidance is due in January 2008. Members discussed whether WMP should remove the current AWMSG template for prescribing statins currently available on the AWMSG website. Members agreed that this should remain on the website for the time being. Dr Duerden acknowledged receipt of the response received from AstraZeneca in relation to the AWMSG draft guidance. CP confirmed that the deputy Chief Medical Officers had agreed that a statement should be issued supporting the Department of Health national policy on statin prescribing. It was agreed that the views of the AWMSG Chairman should be sought prior to proceeding with updating the template.

Action

- Seek advice from AWMSG as to whether to progress the draft template

11. Verbal feedback on inaugural meeting of the New Medicines Group

The Chair invited Dr Martin Duerden to feedback on the inaugural meeting of the NMG. Dr Duerden confirmed that discussions held were at a high level and very constructive. He expressed his view that the AWMSG appraisal process is a robust and fair process.

The preliminary recommendations of NMG had been taken to AWMSG at their meeting in June. Four of the five recommendations had been supported. Dr Duerden reiterated that AWMSG considers societal issues and budget impact in relation to the NMG preliminary recommendations in reaching their conclusions. Dr Duerden confirmed that the recommendation on Dexrazoxane (Savene®) had not been submitted to the Minister for Health & Social Services as the manufacturers had requested a meeting with the AWMSG Chairman to discuss the AWMSG decision.

12. NHSIF draft minutes April meeting

The Chairman drew members' attention to the draft minutes of the NHSIF meeting held in April 2007.

13. NHSIF draft agenda July 2007

Agenda item - visits from pharmaceutical representatives and effects on prescribing behaviour. Some members requested sight of this document which had been circulated to NHSIF members for information.

Action – WMP to forward a copy of this paper to SE and the AWPAG Chair

14. Draft minutes of AWMSG meeting June 2007

The Chair confirmed that all relevant issues raised at the recent AWMSG in relation to AWPAG had been feedback to members.

15. AWPAG Constitution (revised version)

The Chairman asked members to note the revised AWPAG Constitution. It was noted that since AWMSG had increased their meetings from four to six per annum, the sentence in the AWPAG Constitution referring to meetings being held six weeks prior to AWMSG was now irrelevant.

Action

- WMP to remove the sentence referring to AWPAG meetings being held six weeks prior to AWMSG

16. Any other business

Mrs Poulter confirmed there is no intention to produce a document similar to the DoH interim guidance on strategies to achieve cost-effective prescribing.

Mrs Poulter informed members of the intention to set up an Analytical Prescribing Support Unit and sought members' views in relation to the long term objectives of the unit. Mrs Poulter confirmed that a Steering Group would be set up to take this issue forward with representation from Health Solutions Wales, National Public Health Service and the Welsh Medicines Partnership. Following initial discussions a suggestion had been put forward that the unit should be hosted by Health Solutions Wales. Mrs Poulter confirmed that the final decision lay with Welsh Assembly Government. Dr Duerden suggested that the Unit should be hosted by an academic organisation which would provide opportunity for research. Mrs Lang suggested that the Welsh Medicines Partnership would provide peer support within a multi-disciplinary organisation comprising of Trust and University staff, offer continuity in supporting the work programme of AWMSG and its sub-groups and would provide a link with all stakeholders. Members suggested that the Unit could address issues such as resource allocation, setting of practice budgets and facilitate the understanding of variations in prescribing.

Mrs Lang confirmed that Jenny Pugh-Jones had been nominated to replace Mrs Kath Haines as deputy HoPMM representative on AWPAG. Mrs Haines joined the Welsh Medicines Partnership in May.

The Chairman confirmed that future AWPAG meetings will be held at The Hill Education and Conference Centre in Abergavenny.

- 17. Date and time of next meeting**
Thursday 11th October 2007 commencing 10.30 am at The Hill Education and Conference Centre, Abergavenny.